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Information: EMBASSY OF JAPAN
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20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Pakistan tough over Kashmir

India thwarts UDI move: situation grim

ISLAMABAD, Jan 30, (Agencies): Pakistan does not want war with India over a Muslim rebellion in Kashmir but refuses to compromise over the region, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said today.

In a television address he reiterated Pakistan's denial of Indian claims that it is responsible for fomenting a rebellion in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"Pakistan will not be coerced by any pressure or threat and will continue supporting the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination," he said. More than 60 people have died in India's Jammu and Kashmir state in the past week, plunging relations between the two countries to their lowest point since Premier Benazir Bhutto took power in late 1988.

Politicians, diplomats and the media have begun talking about another war as the level of rhetoric has risen on both sides of the divided mountain region neighbouring China.

Yaqub Khan underlined Pakistan's refusal to compromise and accused India of trying to stifle dissent in the two-thirds of Kashmir it rules.

Throughout his 12-minute address Yaqub Khan called the militants fighting in Indian Kashmir "freedom-fighters" — a description that is certain to infuriate India.

"Through civil disobedience, strikes and laying down their lives, the freedom fighters have proved... that while the wave of freedom is sweeping the whole world, the Kashmiri people cannot be deprived of their basic rights and of self-determination by force."

He accused the newly-elected Indian government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh of trying to hide the real causes of the revolt in the Kashmir valley by making baseless charges against Pakistan.

"This stand of India and allegations against Pakistan are totally contrary to the facts," he said.

India faces a major battle against Muslim militancy in Kashmir and only just managed to thwart plans for a unilateral declaration of the state's independence last week, a leading Indian official said today.

The official, a senior figure in Delhi's new Kashmir administration, briefed reporters days after India launched a diplomatic drive to fend off protest from Islamic countries over its clampdown on what appeared to be a popular revolt.

"The gravity of the situation hasn't dawned on the country — whether to say we can save Kashmir or not," said the official.

He said Indian intelligence agencies believed the militants planned to cap a week of protest in the summer capital, Srinagar, by declaring UDI from the city's main mosque last Friday, when India celebrated 40 years as a republic.

"The situation is very grim. We managed to control it on Jan 26. Peace has returned but... the pressure is on," the official said.

In Srinagar today, Muslim militants, taking advantage of a nine-hour curfew break, killed a shopkeeper believed to be a police informer, and thousands of protesters poured into streets calling for independence, witnesses said.

In an escalating war of words between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the chief of the Indian Army warned Islamabad against contemplating military intervention over the uprising in the region against Indian rule.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted Gen. V.N. Sharma, the Indian Army chief of staff, as reiterating that India will, at whatever cost, protect its borders from a Pakistani attack.

"A bomb ripped through a fruit market in the Pakistani-administered part of Kashmir state today, killing a girl and wounding three other people, a state official said."

Aoun outlaws militia

BEIRUT, Jan 30, (Reuters): Lebanon's General Michel Aoun today effectively ordered the disarming of the powerful Lebanese Forces Militia (LF) with which he shares control of the Christian enclave.

"From now on, anyone who is angry, let him protest in the newspapers, let him demonstrate, but it is forbidden to protest through the rifle," Aoun told a rally by scores of supporters.

"There are no military identity cards except the identity cards of the Lebanese army... there are no armed elements outside the framework of the army. Everyone who wants to carry a rifle is welcome to carry it inside the army with us," Aoun declared.

"We will not leave any rifle outside this... anyone who thinks he can take anything with the rifle will take only his life," said Aoun, who commands some 15,000 mainly Christian troops.

Aoun was speaking hours after gunmen attacked his troops in the East Beirut neighbourhood of Fum Al Chebak after signs of increasing tension between the army and the 10,000-strong LF.

"Pakistan is a peace-loving country and does not want conflict or confrontation with any other," he said. "We will not take any step which can endanger peace in this region. However, it is our right and duty to effectively reject India's wrong stand and baseless allegations."

Yaqub Khan, who went to New Delhi last week for tough talks over Kashmir, said Pakistan could never bargain away the right of Kash-

Troops fight almost daily

Not so quiet ceasefire

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Jan 30, (Reuters): India and Pakistan have officially been at peace for nearly 18 years, but troops confronting each other across a volatile ceasefire line in Kashmir clash almost daily.

Fighting erupts in as many as six places a day along the 1,400 km (870 miles) control line, but United Nations observers say there has been no upsurge since a Muslim revolt engulfed Indian-controlled Kashmir this month.

Nor have the men serving with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (Unmogip) seen signs of Indian troop concentrations along the line, said the force's commander, Brigadier-General Jerry Enright.

More than 60 people have died in the last week as Muslims in Indian-held Kashmir have taken to the streets to battle security forces in protest against Indian rule.

India and Pakistan have twice gone to war over mountainous Kashmir and politicians in Pakistani-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir accuse India of reinforcing its side of the ceasefire line.

"We have no evidence of troop movements," Enright said in an interview. "Rumours circulate from time to time but we cannot give them any credence."

But there is plenty of evidence that the number of exchanges across the divide have increased dramatically in the past three years. In some places the opposing armies are only 200 metres (yards) apart.

The UN counted 120 Indian violations in 1987, 240 in 1988 and 600 last year.

New Delhi has refused to allow the UN to investigate Pakistani violations but Enright said the trend was the same.

"I am not talking about a few bursts of machine-gun fire. Thousands of rounds can be fired at a time," he said. "It is just a waste of ammunition."

Enright, a 60-year-old Irish veteran of UN forces in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon, said 14 people died on the Pakistan side last year and 40 were injured. Many were farmers working in their fields.

Unmogip's writ does not extend to the Siachen glacier where Indian and Pakistani troops confront each other at heights of up to 6,100 metres (20,000 feet) near the border with China.

The two sides frequently trade artillery fire across the glacier, the world's highest battlefield, but both armies admit that the harsh cold causes more casualties than the fighting.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim gunmen that have brought normal life in India's Jammu and Kashmir state to a standstill and badly damaged its vital tourist industry.

Pakistan denies the charges but militant groups on both sides of the divide acknowledge that gunmen slip back and forth between Azad Kashmir and Indian territory.

Greece accused Turks attacked

ANKARA, Jan 30, (Reuters): Turkey today condemned attacks against ethnic Turks in the Greek town of Komotini but said Athens had pledged to do its best to stop such incidents.

"We vehemently condemn the tolerant attitude of the Greek authorities to the attacks on our kinsmen," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

It said the Greek government was responsible for yesterday's clashes in which 19 people were injured.

The incident in Komotini shows how minorities are being terrorised. Human rights in western Thrace are heavily violated," the statement added.

A ministry spokesman said Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras expressed understanding for Ankara's position, in a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mesut Yilmaz last night.

"The Greek minister said he understood our position and that his government was doing its best to take necessary measures... everything seems to be under control," the spokesman said.

The clash occurred after 1,500 Muslim ethnic Turks gathered near a mosque chanting "We are Turks."



No to US bases
About 1,000 militant Filipino students marched along the road outside the US embassy in Manila during an anti-American bases rally to denounce the government's resumed talks with the US on renewal of military base lease agreement. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 2



Policeman stoned
A black policeman recovers after being stoned during clashes in Bloemfontein yesterday between police and anti-apartheid demonstrators protesting against a rebel tour of England cricketers to South Africa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talks ruled out

Azeri flying squads blamed for killings

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Agencies): Special Azerbaijani nationalist flying squads did much of the killing of Armenians in recent pogroms in Baku but ordinary people gave shelter to possible victims and prevented more murders, a senior Soviet official said today.

The official ruled out the possibility of opening talks direct with the main Azerbaijani nationalist movement, the Popular Front.

Mikhailov, who just returned from visit to Baku where at least 62 people — most Armenians — died in an orgy of ethnic violence, said he could not say categorically that the Popular Front, ordered the killings.

"But the pogroms could not take place without gunmen," he said.

He added that stockpiles of weapons were found at Popular Front offices searched by Soviet troops who stormed into Baku Jan 20. Mikhailov said searches also turned up numbers of bank savings books apparently stolen from Armenians.

The predominantly Russian city of Tiraspol has voted to declare itself autonomous from Soviet Moldova, the government newspaper Izvestia said.

In a clear protest against a wave of Moldavian nationalism sweeping the republic 92 per cent of the city's 158,000 people took part in Sunday's poll.

The entire Volgograd regional Politburo resigned today following three days of demonstrations and calls by tens of thousands of residents of the Volga river city that the communist leadership quit.

Earlier this week the Volgograd party leader Vladimir Kalashnikov, a protégé of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, submitted his resignation, ending his brilliant rise through the ranks.

Honecker released: East Germany's disgraced former leader Erich Honecker was released from a detention centre on Tuesday after a court ruled he was too ill to be held in custody, the official ADN news agency reported.

Honecker, 77, detained but not formally arrested as he left hospital on Monday after cancer surgery, was too ill to remain in prison "at the moment," the East Berlin city court said.

Reuter photographers saw a police car and another vehicle leave East Berlin's Rummelsburg prison, used for holding people awaiting trial, shortly after the court's ruling. (Reuters) (See Page 7)

German unity not in doubt: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said on Tuesday the idea of German unity was not in doubt but needed careful preparation and responsibility on all sides.

The official news agency Tass said Gorbachev made his remarks to East German reporters just before he began talks in the Kremlin with East Germany's beleaguered Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Asked for his views on the unification of the two German states, the Kremlin chief said the unity question "was not unexpected. In principle, no one puts it in doubt." (Reuters) (See Page 7)

Digital optical processor: American Telephone and Telegraph Co. said on Monday it has built the first machine that uses pulses of light rather than electricity to process information, technology which could be used to build much faster computers.

The company said its invention may equip computers to handle more than 1,000 times as much information as the electronic devices used in today's supercomputers. (Reuters) (See Page 4)

Rebel rockets hit Kabul: Two rebel rockets hit Kabul for the second straight day on Tuesday, killing two civilians and wounding 28 others, government spokesman Mohammad Naqib said.

Two rockets hit Kabul on Monday but caused no casualties. One rocket slammed into the ground behind the deserted West German embassy and another hit the Khojastaba area. (Reuters)

The sanity trial: A third jury has been convened in the sanity trial of a Lebanese man already convicted of murdering his wife and four members of her prominent Jordanian family.

Prosecution and defence attorneys told jurors in their opening statements on Monday that experts will give their views about the sanity of Toufic "Tom" Naddi when he killed his 26-year-old wife, Aida, her parents, a cousin and brother-in-law in June 1985. (AP)

Black man dies in police van: South African police said on Tuesday a 20-year-old black man had died in the back of a police van in Natal province and officers were investigating the possibility that he had been strangled with a shoe lace. (Reuters)

Havel invites Arafat, offers mediation
PRAGUE, Jan 30, (AP): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel yesterday offered to mediate peace talks between Israel and Palestinian leaders, and invited PLO leader Yasser Arafat to visit Prague, his spokesman said.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres visited Prague Jan 21 to discuss restoration of diplomatic ties broken off in 1967 over the six day war, and a future visit by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Last Thursday, Havel received the PLO Ambassador to Prague, Sami Abdul Fattah, and spoke of the long-term of Czechoslovakia for peace in the Middle East.

Sony unveils palm-sized 'electronic book'

TOKYO, Jan 30, (Reuters): Sony Corp., having reshaped lifestyles by bringing portability to recorded music and then to video, has its sights set on another medium — text.

At an exhibition of future technologies last week in Tokyo, the Japanese consumer electronics firm unveiled a prototype "electronic book," a palm-sized unit storing volumes of text that can be read on a tiny liquid crystal display.

"We are looking at a part of the technology of tomorrow's electronics," said Junichi Saeki, a computer industry analyst at Dataquest Japan, a market research firm.

Sony officials won't say when the 550 gram (19.4 ounce) electronic book will be sold, or how much it will cost.

Part of the problem, say industry analysts, is that it will be at least several years before technologies mature and common standards for the product are set with many other firms developing similar technologies.

But when the technology is ready, perhaps in the mid-1990s, the electronic book could become commonplace. It will serve as a portable device that can electronically reference voluminous sources of information such as encyclopedias, Bibles or telephone directories.

The electronic book can double as an audio compact disc player, though it cannot handle moving images. With further advances in technology, it will mix text, video and audio.

Weather
FAIR weather with light north-westerly wind.
State of sea: Moderate
High water: 2.00 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.38 am
Sunset: 5.25 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmed: 14°C 57°F
Falkland: 14°C 57°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 4°C 39°F
Ahmed: 3°C 47°F
Falkland: 3°C 47°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmed: 14°C 57°F
Falkland: 14°C 57°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 91 per cent
Ahmed: 73 per cent
Falkland: 65 per cent

Tribes rejecting plan for autonomy

Referendum in Philippines

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 30. (Agencies): Mountain tribes voted today in an autonomy referendum to decide the future of a mineral-rich region in the northern Philippines and early returns showed them rejecting the plan.

Initial results showed three out of five provinces and the regional centre of Baguio appeared to spurn the government offer of self-rule for the rugged Cordillera gold mining region, polling officials said. "No" votes also took the lead in the two other provinces where the count was closer, early returns showed.

The fiercely independent tribes of the Cordillera had long pressed for greater control over their ancestral lands, which have been gradually taken

over by gold and copper mining companies, power generating firms and loggers.

A ragged coalition of traditional politicians, civic groups, mining interests and a faction led by Conrado Balweg, a former Roman Catholic priest, and communist rebel commander, campaigned against approval of the plan.

"This is not the kind of law which fits our expression for genuine autonomy," Balweg said before the vote.

Haydee Yorac, head of the national commission on elections, said polling was largely peaceful except for two minor cases when ballot boxes were snatched.

Initial returns in the city of Baguio, 200 km (120

miles) north of Manila, showed voters rejecting the autonomy plan by three to one.

Yorac said turnout for the region was about 55 per cent. In Baguio, the turnout was below 50 per cent, other officials said.

The legislation allows a regional government to control development spending, education and cultural matters.

A grenade hidden in the pocket of a retarded man dancing in front of a crowd dropped and exploded, killing the man and at least seven other people in a central Philippines village, reports said today.

Duty course Abe Labra quoted one of the wounded as saying the incident took place last night in Balambao town, about 545 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Manila on Cebu island.

Bandits robbed and burned a bus today and took five passengers hostage in their getaway from a village in the southern Philippines, the military reported.

The southern command said about 20 gunmen stopped the bus by shooting out its tyres as the vehicle travelled through Licomo village, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) south of Manila.

A Philippines Air Force jet crashed on a runway today, killing two crewmen, a military official said.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the T-33 thunderbird crashed several minutes after takeoff at the Basa air base in Pampanga province, 40 miles (64 kilometres) northwest of Manila.

A Philippine student and his friend who admitted calling in a fake bomb threat in order to catch a flight leaving Geneva for London were being held in custody yesterday, police said.

Both suspects told interrogators they pined the airport that a bomb was aboard flight British Airways Flight 723, which was about to leave for London's Heathrow airport, in the hope that the threats would delay the departure long enough for them to catch it.

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An ethnic Igorot tribesman of the Cordillera region casts his vote in Tubo town, Benguet province during a plebiscite for the proposed Cordillera autonomy act. (Reuters wirephoto)

'I am firmly in control'

Aquino douses rumour of polls

MANILA, Jan 30. (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino has doused speculation about an early election in the Philippines as a way out of the country's political crisis, saying it would divert attention from economic recovery efforts.

She also launched a counter-attack against critics who accuse her of weak leadership, stressing her determination to set the country back on course after the December army coup attempt which almost toppled her.

"To my detractors who dare to defy the rule of law merely to satisfy their lust for power, I say I remain firmly in control of this government and intend to do so in accordance with our constitution," Aquino said in a speech today to Japanese, American and Filipino businessmen.

"I give you this assurance that I shall continue to exercise leadership, particularly in the effective delivery of services to those who need them most," she declared.

In a statement yesterday she dampened speculation that she may endorse an early presidential election, indicating she preferred to stay on for her full term until June 1992. But she left the door open to an early poll by saying it was up to the Filipino people and congress to decide.

Four senators proposed bringing forward the date for presidential elections to November 1991, while opposition figures have called for an immediate poll following the sixth coup attempt in almost four years of Aquino's rule.

But Aquino told reporters that bringing forward the poll would be costly and time-consuming because it would involve altering the constitution and conducting a national referendum to endorse the change.

She said the greater cost, however, would be the "placing of elections and political fray at the forefront once more of the national agenda, to the detriment of the need to focus at this time on development, the economy and social reforms."

Senator Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, last week proposed bringing forward presidential and congressional elections so that they did not clash with local polls also planned for May 1992.

But many political analysts had seen the suggestion as a piece of political kite-flying, either to allow Aquino to step down early or provide her a way of getting a new mandate and help undercut those behind the string of coup attempts.

Politicians and commentators, quick to see a US hand in Philippine affairs, also believed Washington was pressing her to "put her house in order" through an early poll, although Aquino has denied that recent envoys from Washington have asked her to hold a snap election.

Aquino's position has been strengthened somewhat by the capture yesterday of former Brigadier-General Edgardo Abenina, one of the masterminds of the December 1-7 coup.

"This is a big blow to them considering that (he) has been playing a significant role in the planning and co-ordination and the recruitment of (rebel) forces," armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said.

Abenina, who once commanded the strategic central Philippine military region, is the most senior of six rebel officers to have been arrested since the mutiny.

Arms replace pens in varsity

DHAKA, Jan 30. (Reuters): Brute force and firearms have ousted learning and logic at Bangladesh's violence-ridden university campuses but the government says there is not much it can do about it.

"Revolvers and (sub-machine) guns have replaced pens and books in Dhaka University and other campuses," Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed told Parliament last night.

Nearly 200 students have been killed in pitched campus battles between rival political groups in the last two years, he said.

Ten of them died at Dhaka University, once known as the Oxford of the East, (at Dhaka) brute force has become more powerful than logic and muscle power rules over the truth," Ahmed said.

"Political parties and their lackeys, using students as political tools, are responsible for campus violence," he said.

The ruling Jatiya Party disbanded its student wing two years ago but other parties had not followed suit, he said.

"Seeds of terrorism are being sown by vested-interest groups but we cannot watch the harm-kind by our passivity as passive onlookers," he said.

Adding that the government alone could not halt the violence, he urged opposition parties to help restore peace to the campuses.

Tribal rebels shot dead six farmers in southern Bangladesh in apparent revenge killings, officials said today.

The farmers were attacked yesterday while working in a rice field in the Langadu area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, they said.

Hours earlier villagers in the same area axed to death a member of the Shanti Bahini rebel group fighting for autonomy for the hill tracts bordering India and Burma.

Salvage workers yesterday pulled out a broken ferry that capsized and sank with 150 passengers on board, killing at least 25 of them, officials said.

Sunday's accident in River Lohali near Patunkhali, 150 kms (90 miles) south of Dhaka, was the fourth major river disaster this month in Bangladesh.

Benazir leaves hospital

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took her new baby daughter home early on Tuesday under heavy guard, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Benazir left the Lady Dufferin hospital, where her daughter was delivered last Thursday, just after midnight for her Karachi home, Shalwal House, the spokeswoman said.

Her husband Asif Ali Zardari held the baby as they left the hospital in a car closely guarded by dozens of police carrying automatic weapons, witnesses said.

Benazir, the first head of government to give birth while in office, is expected to rest at home for the next few days.

But when she resumes her official duties, she must grapple with a violent rebellion by Muslims fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, which has plunged relations between Pakistan and India to their lowest point since Benazir took office in 1988.

Until Benazir recovers, her mother Nurat, the senior minister, will chair cabinet meetings. (Reuters)

Business confidence turned to Manila: President Corason Aquino said Tuesday business confidence has returned after last month's bloody coup attempt with new investments already reaching almost 20 per cent of this year's target.

Speaking before a gathering of businessmen, Aquino said investments in the first 23 days of this year totalled \$688 million, or 18.7 per cent of the board of investments' target of \$4 billion for 1990.

At least 119 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, the sixth and worst uprising against Aquino, who was swept to power in a civilian-backed military revolt that ousted her late predecessor Ferdinand Marcos. (UPI)

Gunmen kill four in Pakistan: Gunmen firing from speeding cars killed four people in the southern Pakistan city of Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Witnesses said unidentified gunmen killed two motorcyclists on the spot with a burst of gunfire from a car.

Soon after, two more people were killed in similar circumstances near a cinema, but it was not clear if the same gunmen were responsible.

City officials immediately ordered a curfew in parts of Hyderabad and deployed troops and paramilitary police with orders to shoot curfew-breakers on sight. (Reuters)

Nepalis protest to restore multiparty system: An estimated 100,000 supporters of Nepal's partyless "panchayat" political system marched through the capital Sunday to protest an outlawed party that seeks to restore a multiparty system.

The marchers later converged at a rally at the Tundikhel open theatre in the heart of Kathmandu, where Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha denounced the socialist-leaning Nepali Congress Party.

Last weekend, the party concluded the largest gathering by an opposition group in 30 years, it adopted a resolution to start a mass movement on Feb 18 to restore "people's rights."

The meeting of 3,500 delegates, held without government interference inside a private compound, was attended by seven members of India's Parliament.

Shrestha told Sunday's rally, "it is indeed ridiculous that these (Nepali Congress) elements are inviting extraneous (foreign) intervention in the hope of forcing their version of democracy on the people when there already exists a working democracy in the country."

Shrestha said he would take legal action against Nepali Congress Party members. (AP)

Four stabbed to death in Seoul: Police sought two men Monday as suspects in the murder of four people, all teenagers, at a night spot in southern Seoul.

A police spokesman said two boys and two girls in their upper teens were found stabbed to death at a cafe in the Kuro area at about 1 am Monday (1600 GMT Sunday). There are many restaurants in the area frequented by workers of nearby factories.

Three of the victims were employees of the restaurant and the other, a boy, was a friend of one of the others killed, the police spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted the owner of the cafe as saying that before he left the place around midnight two men in their 20s had drinks and demanded that one of the girls go out with them for the night.

Tamil Tigers kidnap 30 Muslim traders

COLOMBO, Jan 30. (Agencies): Tamil guerrillas abducted 30 Muslim businessmen and shot and wounded a local politician in Sri Lanka's eastern province today, residents said.

They said rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam grabbed the 30 men from a mosque in Kaluwanai in Ampara district.

In adjoining Sammanthurai town, the Tigers shot and wounded provincial council member M.P. Munoor in the leg as he tried to escape over a wall from his home.

A spokesman for the Tigers, who control most eastern areas of the island, said the 10 men and the politician were members of Jihad, a shadowy Muslim militant group.

The spokesman, speaking by telephone from the eastern

town of Batticaloa, said the 10 men had killed a member of the Tigers yesterday. He said they were being questioned and would be released.

Kaluwanai residents said shops were closed in the area, where most residents are Muslims, after the kidnapping.

The north-eastern Tamil-speaking parliamentarian forum today sent an urgent telegram to President Ranasinghe Premadasa drawing his immediate attention to the security situation in the eastern Batticaloa and Ampara districts.

The telegram signed by the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and president of the forum, M.H.M. Ashraf, and the secretary of the forum, A. Navaratnam, has complained of the Tigers.

Universal American School Announces the following:

- 1) Re-enrollment for returning students will take place between January 6th and February 1, 1990.
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 - 3) New student applications will be accepted starting Sunday, January 14th, 1990, at 9:00 am.
- NOTE:** The school may be unable to secure places for its students and their brothers and sisters who do not enroll before February 1, 1990.

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Thumbs up in applause

US President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush acknowledged the stars who performed at the Republican inauguration anniversary.

sary gala yesterday at the Kennedy Centre. The programme featured Tony Bennett.

Chubby Checker, BB King, Yakov Smirnoff, Roberta Flack and others. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PARIS: American singer Bob Dylan is to be named Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, one of France's highest honours, the Culture Ministry said yesterday. Dylan, 48, best known as the 1960s folk singer of protest against

searchers set out in the heavy snow shortly after dark to find the men. Searchers were hindered by waist-deep snow, Rhodes said. The lost skiers' tracks were filled with several inches of snow, but could be followed.

Fortunately, Rhodes said, the lost skiers were found about 11.30 pm, snug and warm beside the campfire they had started — by burning dollar bills.

Wing and Joneson told searchers they realised about 3.30 pm that they were lost. They said they decided to use their money and cigarette lighter to start the fire, then sat down to wait for help.

The sheriff said the lost skiers had made the right decision. (AP)

HOMESTEAD, Florida: The biting bandit has chopped his way through robbery No. 12, baffling

Healer
Saliva cure

ALGIERS, Jan 30, (Reuters): A paralysed Swiss flew to a remote village in Algeria on Sunday for treatment by a healer who says his saliva cures the sick, the Algerian news agency APS reported.

APS gave no details of the saliva treatment but said the healer in Bou Khadra, eastern Algeria, had cured a friend of the Swiss patient of cancer. It did not identify either patient.

Since Dec 23, the bandit has robbed 12 young men, almost all of them Spanish-speaking migrant

miles (32 km) southwest of Miami. The bandit subdues his victims by biting their ears, fingers, hands, and shoulders. One victim had to have his severed ear sewn back on.

"I can't understand why all these men are just standing there going, 'OW'" police dispatcher Linda Strickland said. "I'd try to wallop him, or at least bite back."

Police thought they had caught the bandit when Willie Jansier Peterson was arrested last week on charges of violating parole. Peterson insisted he had never bitten anyone, but victim No. 11 identified him as the robber who nibbled on his left pinkie and made off with \$15 on Jan 15.

But police conceded over the weekend that Peterson probably was not the bandit. He was playing cards in his cell at the Dade county stockade when the bandit struck again Jan 21.

Red dye
banned
for risk
of cancer

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): The US Food and Drug Administration banned a number of uses of the controversial colour additive FD-and-C Red No. 3 yesterday because tests have shown very high doses of the chemical dye cause cancer in laboratory rats.

The FDA said its action prevents further use of the additive in cosmetics such as lipsticks, in externally applied drugs and, as a pigment form called 'lakes', in food, drugs and cosmetics — "about one fifth of its uses."

Consumer groups hailed the action, but complained the dye continues to be used in fruit juices and other products.

"Since 1982 alone, well over 100 million Americans a year, including tens of millions of children, have eaten or exposed themselves to this cancer-causing dye while the FDA allowed industries which sell the dye or make products containing it to keep from taking it off the market," the Public Citizen Health Research said.

The FDA also said it "concluded" consumers may continue to use existing supplies of products that already contain the dye, which caused thyroid tumours in the male laboratory rodents.

"The actual risk posed by Red No. 3 is extremely small," US Health and Human Services secretary Louis Sullivan said in a statement. "However, federal law in this area is clear."

"There have been laboratory studies which showed that very high doses of Red No. 3, administered directly in the diet, caused cancer in rats," Sullivan said. "In these circumstances, small as the risk is, we have no choice under the law but to end the provisional listing of this product."

The FDA said under the Delaney clause of the 1960 colour additive amendments to the US Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, "products shown to have carcinogenic effect in laboratory tests, no matter how small cannot be approved for use by FDA."

'Robin Hud' pleads guilty

She gave millions to poor

BALTIMORE, Jan 30, (AP): A real estate agent dubbed "Robin Hud" said she tried to help as many poor people as she could before getting caught for embezzling at least \$4.75 million in housing funds from the government.

Marilyn Louise Harrell smiled throughout a hearing yesterday in US District Court, where she pleaded guilty to charges that she stole money from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development — known as HUD.

"I thought I'd get caught a long time ago," Harrell, 46, said after the hearing. "I'm sorry for what I did. I figured I was history and would help as many as I could before I went down."

Harrell, who claims she gave millions to charity because she is a born-again Christian, said she had decided to plead guilty as part of a plea agreement because she did not want to spend taxpayers' money on a trial.

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Hazelwood. (Reuter wirephoto)

Exxon oil spill trial opens in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Jan 30, (AP): Former Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood's attorneys lost another bid to have charges against him dismissed on the opening day of his trial in the nation's worst oil spill.

"I feel that this show should not go on, at least not here," Hazelwood attorney Dick Madison said in arguing that the New York seaman should have been charged under federal rather than state law.

Hazelwood, 43, was the captain of the Exxon Valdez when the tanker ran aground March 24, spilling nearly 11 million gallons (over 41 million litres) of north slope crude oil into Prince William Sound.

He faces a felony charge of criminal mischief and misdemeanor charges of operating a vessel while intoxicated, reckless endangerment and negligent discharge of oil. If convicted on all counts, he faces up to seven years and three months in prison and \$61,000 in fines.

Superior court judge Karl Johnstone denied Madison's motion for dismissal of the charges, saying it lacked substance. Earlier defence efforts to get the indictment against Hazelwood dismissed also failed.

Madison said federal law prevails to guarantee consistent rules from port to port regardless of which state a vessel is in. "Federal laws and regulations have covered this field for 200 years and there's a good reason for it," he said.

Hazelwood sat in the courtroom as Johnstone dealt with preliminary matters for 90 minutes before instructing attorneys to spend the rest of the day examining standard, three-page questionnaires completed by prospective jurors.

Johnstone said he expects jury selection to take less than the two weeks attorneys in the case predicted.

Still pending is a defence motion to keep from evidence the results of a blood-alcohol test that Hazelwood failed about 10 hours after the tanker struck Bligh Reef and began spilling oil in early-morning darkness.

Cuba to jam US TV broadcasts

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 30, (AP): Cuba's UN ambassador said yesterday that Havana will jam planned US television broadcasts to his nation and said broadcasters face serious disruptions in "this so-called radio war or TV war."

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada said the US government's plan to broadcast TV programme to Cuba violates international telecommunications agreements.

"It is the same as taking from us part of our land, our sea, our air space. That is why we will make it impossible," he told reporters.

"We are not creating this so-called radio war or TV war," the ambassador said.

City employee to testify Barry smoked crack: report

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): A city employee has reached an agreement with federal prosecutors to testify he was present at a hotel when Mayor Marion Barry smoked crack cocaine, paving the way for possible perjury and felony charges against Barry, the Washington Post reported today.

The Post, quoting anonymous sources, said city employee James McWilliams finalised his plea agreement yesterday at the office of US attorney Jay Stephens, who is prosecuting Barry on misdemeanor cocaine possession charges.

McWilliams, 57, was expected to testify today before a federal grand jury investigating the

Computerised therapy works

Depression treatment

NEW YORK, Jan 30, (AP): Depressed patients who were treated by computer during an experiment improved as much as those who consulted a human therapist, suggesting an economical treatment for a condition afflicting millions.

Computerised therapy may one day help roughly a third of people with depression if further research bears out its promise, said researcher John Greist.

Depression strikes 10 million Americans within any six-month period. Human therapists can now treat only a fraction of the number, but using computers might let them reach more, said Greist, a psychiatrist professor at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison.

Computerised treatment could be provided day and night at a cost of perhaps only 50 cents an hour, he said. And unlike a human therapist, a computer "doesn't have bad days," he said.

Humans would still be needed to screen patients for the therapy and to step in if the computer fails to treat the patient adequately, he said in a recent interview. And the therapeutic approach used in the study works best for people with only mild to moderate depression, he said.

The study compared the progress of 12 depressed people who received therapy from a computer, 12 who consulted a therapist, and 12 who received no treatment during the experiment.

The two treated groups followed a six-week course of weekly cognitive-behavioural therapy. This approach aims to correct harmful patterns in how people interpret their experiences, such as in people who habitually perceive slights and conclude that they must be unliked and worthless.

The therapist's job in this approach is fairly routine and can become repetitious, Greist said. That makes the regimen "a poor use of human beings" but a good candidate for being done by computer, he said.

Using a programme designed by co-author Paulette Selmi, a computer asked such questions as how long a person had felt depressed and which activities in a list made the person feel better. It also asked about particular symptoms and asked the person to rank the severity of his depression on a standard scale.

In this way, the computer could get "a pretty crisp idea of the nature of this person's depression," Greist said.

Responses to the computer's multiple-choice questions shaped the course of each session and future sessions. The actual therapy included teaching basics of cognitive-behavioural therapy, testing the person's understanding of the lessons, and assigning homework. Depending on the person's problems, the homework could include such tasks as assigned reading, thinking about less damaging explanations for perceived slights, or introducing oneself to new people daily to discover that one is not always rejected.

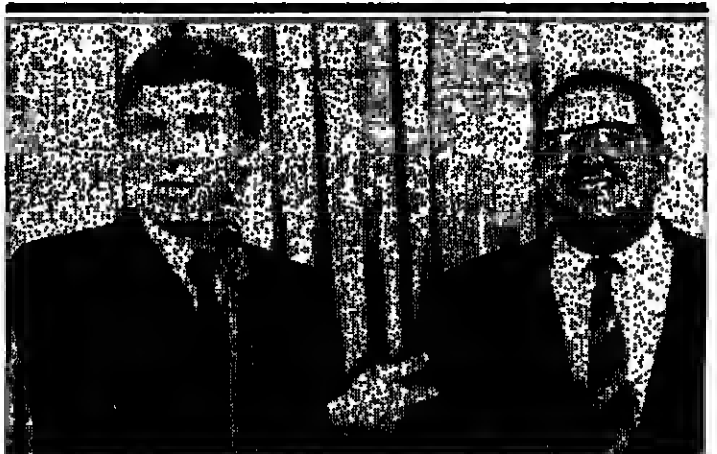
Analysis showed that, as a group, patients who took computerised therapy improved as much as those in the other treated group, both at the conclusion of treatment and two months later. Both groups improved significantly more than the people who had received no therapy.

The study is presented in this month's issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry by Selmi, Greist and others at the university.

T. Byram Karasu, professor of psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, called the new work important.

But he cautioned that cognitive-behavioural therapy is generally less effective for depression than other strategies, including medication.

He also stressed that while computers might be useful for some aspects of psychotherapy, they cannot totally replace a human therapist. Most depressed patients are "starving for human contact," he said.



Quayle (left) points to Endara during the press conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

New poll hint

Quayle gets a sour note

KINGSTON, Jan 30, (Reuter): US Vice-President Dan Quayle, who heard Jamaica's prime minister brand the US invasion of Panama illegal, said yesterday that Panama's leaders may need to consider holding elections to gain recognition from other countries.

Quayle's three-day diplomatic mission on Panama's future ended on a sour note when Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley said he opposed the US invasion and therefore could not accept the new government in Panama.

"We exchanged views on Panama and we are friends but friends do not always agree," Manley told reporters after a meeting with Quayle.

Manley condemned former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega as a "menace" to the region, but said his ouster violated international law.

"We made it clear... that we do not agree with the invasion," Manley said of talks he described as "frank and useful" — diplomatic jargon for blunt.

Quayle, speaking with reporters while en route to Washington, said some type of election "is one of the things that President (Guillermo) Endara and others will have to discuss internally."

The United States has said there was no need for new elections to confirm the right of the Endara government to hold power. Noriega refused to accept the results of an election last May — which Washington believes Endara won — and remained in power until the US invasion in December.

Quayle flew to Jamaica after a final round of talks in Panama City with Endara on how to rally world support for Panama.

Although several Central American countries have recognised the Endara government, few in Latin America have granted their diplomatic approval.

Endara said yesterday that banking regulations would be amended in Panama to prevent drug dealers from laundering money through the nation's banks.

"Panama's bankers want reasonable changes which don't unduly change the banking environment," Endara said through an interpreter. "They know Panama cannot continue to be the centre for... drug dollars. We have to participate in the fight against drug trafficking."

Quayle, appearing with Endara at a news conference, praised the government's plans for reform.

"I'm impressed with Endara's willingness to move in a different direction in dealing with important issues like the laundering of drug money," Quayle said as he ended an overnight visit.

Endara said banking law modifications "are being studied," but did not detail what changes are being contemplated. He did say that many of the changes required "are not that profound."

Panama's system of confidential bank accounts, similar to that in Switzerland, has attracted more than 100 international banks, employing nearly 8,000 people.

Uses light instead of electricity

Bell unveils photon computers

NEWARK, New Jersey, Jan 30, (AP): A prototype computer that processes data with light instead of electricity could be as revolutionary as the transistor that ushered in the computer age, researchers say.

The crude computer processor unveiled yesterday could lead to the development of light-based supercomputers within a decade operating a hundred times faster than current machines, said Alan Huang, head of Bell Laboratories' optical computer research department.

"This stage says it can be done," said Bob Trier, technical programme director for Research Consortium Inc. of Minneapolis, which studies high-performance computing. "The next stage is to find out what can be done with this technology."

For years researchers have been looking at photons, the fundamental particles of light, as replacements for electrons in electronic equipment. Such a shift promises computers vastly more agile and powerful than today's

machines. The prototype data processor introduced by Bell Labs is the first to transmit information with light rather than electricity, the movement of electrons. The technique allows a much greater flow of data.

Unlike current computer chips, information can pass not just from a chip's edges but also from its surface.

The prototype is relatively primitive and can run little more than a dishwasher. But by the end of the decade, supercomputers could be using more light, or "photonics," components than electronic, and may run at least 100 times faster than today's generation, Huang said.

"Your only limit when it comes to those things is the speed of light," said Jim Hammons, an analyst at the Sierra group computer consulting firm in Tempe, Arizona.

The prototype, contained in a 2-foot-square (60-centimetres-square) box, differs from a true computer in that the programme that runs the optical processor is built into its hardware, rather than being contained in software, said Bell Labs spokeswoman Marj McKean. It also has limited memory, she said.

She said the processor originally took up three large lab benches. Eventually, scientists believe it can be reduced to the size of microchips, or no larger than a fingernail.

Transmitting light impulses, as fibre optics do, is nothing new, but controlling them is another thing.

"They have found a way to hold a piece of light," said Trier.

The photonic computer depends on new chips that pass light impulses between each other through "lenses" that perform the function of wires, Bell Labs officials said.

Officials at American Telephone and Telegraph Co., which owns Bell Labs, likened the development to that of the transistor, which made it possible to make electronic devices smaller, sturdier and more reliable.

No plan to kill Bush: cartel

BOGOTA, Jan 30, (Agencies):

The drug cartels stepped up their public relations blitz yesterday, announcing they had no plans to kill US President George Bush during a February drug summit and turning over a ton of dynamite to Medellin police.

The Medellin cartel also promised to release a ranking Colombian diplomat who was abducted Friday by cocaine thugs as he walked to work in northern Bogota.

Warring drug cartels last month kicked off a kidnapping spree to extort ransom, but in recent weeks have been releasing captives to persuade the government to negotiate a ceasefire.

Furthering the public campaign for negotiations, the Medellin cartel issued a communique, signed by fugitive kingpin Pablo Escobar, saying the cocaine cartels had no plans to assassinate Bush when he meets Feb 15 with the Andean leaders in the Colombian port city of Cartagena.

Escobar, wanted for extradition to face drug charges in the United States, also refuted accounts the traffickers were smuggling shoulder-fired SA-7 missiles into Colombia to attack air force one as Bush landed.

The US media reported two weeks ago the secret service was investigating a drug plot to kill the president during his anti-narcotics summit with the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

Authorities have stepped up patrols of Cartagena, 415 miles (665 km) north of Bogota, setting up roadblocks and checking the identifications of motorists and pedestrians to pre-empt potential saboteurs.

The cartel-financed hit squad known as the Extraditados telephoned a Medellin radio station to say it had stolen more than 2,000 pounds (1,000 kg) of dynamite in a stolen bus parked on the city's outskirts.

The drug lords had promised in a press release last week to hand over explosives to the government as a good will gesture leading to negotiations with the administration of President Virilio Barco, which launched a sweeping offensive on the cartels last August.

Police arrived at the dynamite-laden bus minutes after journalists, and confirmed it had been stolen last week by unknown gunmen.

The promise to release Roberto Garcia Pena, the official kidnaper last week in Bogota, was contained in the Medellin cartel communique. The cartel also said Garcia Pena, the Foreign Ministry's visa section chief who one served as a Colombia consul in Miami, would be carrying a message from the drug traffickers.

Garcia Pena has vanished during his customary stroll to work along Carrera Septima, one of the capital's main thoroughfares. A mysterious caller had telephoned Garcia Pena two weeks ago, telling him in English, "you'll be the next," and quickly hanging up, family members said.

Two weeks ago the cocaine czars offered to surrender to authorities if the government agreed not to extradite them to the United States.

Charles Lewis during visits to another downtown hotel, the Ramada Inn, in December 1988.

McWilliams, a former assistant attorney-general of the Virgin Islands and longtime friend of Lewis, was reportedly present at the Ramada Inn the night of Dec 19, 1988. He has long been considered a potentially crucial witness against the mayor, the Post said.

McWilliams is expected to tell the grand jury he was present in Lewis' hotel room when the mayor arrived, and that he witnessed Barry and Lewis enter the bathroom together, the Post said.



Trying to upstage Chamorro

President Daniel Ortega (shown above left) promised to free more than 1,000 political and rebel prisoners before next month's national elections, in a move apparently aimed at upstaging his main opponent, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

"Tomorrow I will ask the National Assembly to release all these prisoners," Ortega told reporters on Monday after meeting for more than two hours with the episcopal conference of Nicaragua's 11 Roman Catholic bishops. Ortega said he took the step at the request of Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, (shown right) the archbishop of Managua and a leading critic of Ortega's leftist Sandinista government.

"We, as pastors, are interested in reconciling men with

God and reconciling men among each other," Obando Y Bravo explained after the meeting. "We are happy, therefore, that we are advancing along these lines, creating a climate of peace."

The permanent Commission on Human Rights, a private Nicaraguan organisation, claims there are currently more than 4,000 political prisoners.

Ortega, who is seeking a second six-year term in the Feb 25 elections, also urged the US-supported Contra rebels to release hundreds of people the government claims have been kidnapped by the rebels.

Former US president Jimmy Carter expressed confidence on Monday that Nicaragua's elections will be fair and said he hopes a trend toward free elections will spread to other troubled nations. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

FDA approves new Aids drug: The US Food and Drug Administration on Monday in Washington approved the drug Fluconazole as an alternative treatment for two serious Aids-related infections.

The FDA said the new drug was approved for patients suffering: — Cryptococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the brain and nervous system that often affects people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Candidiasis, a fungal infection that leads to sores in the mouth and throat estimated to afflict 80 to 90 per cent of people in advanced stages of infection with the Aids virus.

"Fluconazole offers an effective alternative treatment for people with Aids, cancer and other diseases whose weakened immune systems make them susceptible to cryptococcal meningitis or candidiasis," US health and human services secretary Louis Sullivan said. (UPI)

Gardner laid to rest: Ava Gardner, a north Carolina sharecropper's daughter who rose to stardom in the 1940s, was buried Monday in the town where she grew up, Smithfield, north Carolina.

"We come to celebrate this life who brought so much to so many privately as well," the Rev. Francis Bradshaw, pastor of Century United Methodist Church in Smithfield, said at a graveside service. "She touched lives the world over."

After battling recurring pneumonia for several years, Miss Gardner, 67, died Thursday at her apartment in London, where she had lived the past two decades. She had suffered a mild stroke a few years ago.

Four hundred to 500 people stood in drizzling rain at Sunset Memorial Park in Smithfield, a few miles (kilometres) from the tiny community of Brodgen.



Greenpeace protest

Greenpeace campaigners chain the rudder of the Philippines registered tanker 'We Carrier' to the docks in Auckland harbour today. Greenpeace are protesting against drift-net fishing in the South Pacific. The 'We Carrier' was preparing to supply the Japanese drift-net fishing fleet in the Tasman Sea west of New Zealand. (Reuter wirephoto)

Noriega may go to World Court

MIAMI, Jan 30, (UPI): Manuel Noriega's lawyers plan to ask the World Court to declare him a prisoner of war, but the judge in Noriega's drug trafficking case said the former Panamanian dictator would probably be tried in Miami even if he gains POW status.

"Just because he is found to be a prisoner of war would not rule out the government's ability to bring him to trial," US district judge William Hoever said yesterday.

Noriega's attorneys asked Hoever last Friday to relinquish jurisdiction in the case, claiming the Panamanian general is a prisoner of war and should be transferred to a neutral country. Noriega also has demanded POW status in a letter to US President George Bush.

A US Justice Department spokesman in Washington said the government plans to submit a written response to Noriega's demands on Wednesday.

David Runkel, chief spokesman for Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, said the department "is taking a look at the legal aspects of the POW issue" and is consulting with the State Department and the Pentagon.

Hoever has not ruled on the jurisdiction challenge and said he expected to hear from the government during a status conference Thursday.

Noriega lawyers Frank Rubino and Steve Kollin said they plan to take Noriega's prisoner-of-war request to the World Court, the judicial arm of the United Nations at The Hague in the Netherlands. They did not indicate when they might do so.

For Noriega to go free, his lawyers said, the World Court would have to accept the case, the United States would have to surrender jurisdiction and the government would have to abide by an adverse ruling.

The Bush administration insists that because Noriega is in government custody, he is subject to trial on drug-conspiracy charges in a US court.

Hoever said he does not plan to decide if Noriega is a prisoner of war. "That's a matter for the army and the executive branch," Hoever said.

He said he would rule only on whether his court has jurisdiction to try Noriega.

"That is the \$64,000 question," Hoever said. "The executive branch of the government may determine that he is a prisoner of war and prosecutors may argue that he can still be brought to trial — that Noriega is also a prisoner of the US Marshals."

Noriega's lawyers said that could not happen. Except for war crimes, POW cannot be tried on any charges filed before his capture, Rubino said.

Noriega was moved Sunday from the courthouse basement cell, where he had been held since his arrival in Miami to the Metropolitan Correctional Centre, a federal prison southwest of Miami.

His attorneys want him turned over to military custody, possibly at the nearby Homestead air force base, while he awaits transfer to an unnamed neutral country. Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war are not to be housed in prisons.

"We are taking the position that the Metropolitan Correctional Centre is not the proper place for a prisoner of war," Kollin said.

At the status conference Thursday, prosecutors and defence attorneys also plan to discuss a proposed March 5 trial date, which Noriega's attorneys want postponed, and the process for filing legal motions that request classified documents.

Also Monday, Hoever heard arguments but delayed until Thursday a decision on requests that two co-defendants be released on bond. Lt Col Luis Del Cid, 46, and Daniel Miranda, 36 face related charges in the drug trafficking case.

Hoever has said the trial will begin March 5. "These matters at this time are primarily factual," the judge said after the two-hour hearing. "I do want to give both matters additional thought."

Bond

Miranda, a pilot accused of transporting cocaine money from the United States, was granted a \$1 million bond two weeks ago by US magistrate Peter Palermo. The bond was immediately appealed by prosecutors in a move that kept Miranda in jail until Hoever can rule.

Del Cid, a member of the Panamanian Defence Forces and national guard, is accused of acting as a liaison and courier between Noriega and drug traffickers. Monday's hearing was the third on Del Cid's bond request.

January 31, 1990
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INTERNATIONAL

Hill has last say on bases in US

W. Europe govts react calmly

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announced yesterday he is going to shut down US operations at 12 military bases abroad, many next year, and that he is considering asking the US Congress to close 35 bases in the United States.

In addition, Cheney said he will realign or withdraw some US forces from two US bases overseas over the next four years and that he is considering making similar changes to 20 bases in the United States.

All of this would be in addition to the 86 domestic base closures approved by Congress last year.

"We cannot responsibly reduce the defence budget without looking at bases and production lines," Cheney said.



Cheney during a press conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shot for Mars

Bush asks for money

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP): President George Bush asked Congress yesterday to increase the National Space Agency's 1991 budget by 17.5 per cent, including money for a start on his plan to send astronauts back to the moon and, later, to Mars.

If approved by Congress, the space budget also would pay for starting the so-called "mission to planet Earth," an ambitious programme to study the Earth's environment using satellites and instruments.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration would be authorised to spend \$14.1 billion in the fiscal year beginning Oct 1, an increase of \$2.1 billion over this fiscal year.

The President's request to Congress "demonstrates the administration's continued strong support for NASA and the civil space station," NASA administrator Richard Truly said in a prepared statement.

"It reflects the President's belief that investment in space yields substantial benefits—vastly expanding scientific knowledge, developing valuable new technology and, especially important, lifting the dreams, imagination and spirit of our nation."

A major beneficiary would be the manned space station, which the United States hopes to have in orbit late in the decade. Authority for the station would increase from \$1.7 billion to \$2.4 billion as the project moves from design to the fabrication stage. The first construction flight is scheduled for the spring of 1993.

The budget request includes \$661 million in spending authority to study the Earth, including money to start two polar-orbiting platforms, the first of which would be launched in 1998. It also would initiate the development of Earth probes, a series of smaller instruments focused on specific, high-priority data needs, including ozone depletion. The first would be launched in 1994.

Last July, on the 20th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, the President set a goal of having the United States return to the moon and then to begin manned exploration of Mars early in the next century.

The budget request reflects the first steps toward that goal in a \$179 million authority item for "exploration technology," which includes \$4.5 million for lunar and Mars science, and 11 million for nuclear propulsion studies.

President Bush on Monday pardoned America's "killer trees."

In a symbolic break with former president Ronald Reagan, who once blamed trees for air pollution, Bush's 1991 budget asks Congress for \$630 million to plant and conserve one billion trees annually.

Under current law, domestic military installations cannot be closed simply by Defence Department order — they must be approved by Congress. And that is seen as highly unlikely.

At a news conference, Cheney acknowledged it will be "tough" to get members of Congress, who represent voters in many of the targeted districts, to approve the domestic closings.

"I think it's a real test for Congress. ... They have to resist the temptation on Capitol Hill to substitute the desire to keep open outmoded facilities back home in the district that we don't need," Cheney said.

"It is absolutely vital that Congress have the guts to make the right decisions ... so that we end up with the quality force that is essential to the security of the nation," he said.

Cheney said he sent the list of domestic base "candidates" up to Congress along with a legislative package that would give him more power to decide to shut down military bases in the United States.

"It is my expectation to fight very hard for it," he said, denying it was a political move on his part to simply portray Congress as an obstructionist in making deep defence spending cuts.

Congressional approval is not required for foreign bases, and the 14 overseas locations announced yesterday are those at which the United States will end its operations or realign or reduce its forces from fiscal 1991 through 1994.

The United States will shut down operations in late 1990 at the (Royal Air Force) RAF Fairford in Britain.

Those closing in mid-1991 will be RAF Greenham Common and RAF Woburn in England, and RAF Fylingdales in Yorkshire.

RAF Fylingdales is a missile early warning station in the North York Moors National Park.

RAF Fylingdales is a missile early warning station in the North York Moors National Park.

Faith is a must — Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): President George Bush, saying faith has fostered democratic change around the world, told the national religious broadcasters yesterday that "one cannot be America's president without a belief in God."

The president, accompanied by First Lady Barbara Bush, spoke to the group's annual meeting at a Washington hotel.

Bush said the values of church leaders "have been a force for democratic change" in South Africa and the Philippines.

"And, yes, in Eastern Europe, too," he said, "where for centuries faith has sustained those striving for freedom and adversity."

Surveying the global situation, Bush said, "today, the times are on the side of peace because the world, increasingly, is on the side of God."

"For my own part," he added, "I know that this is true. For although I've been president for barely a year, I believe with all my heart that 'one cannot be America's president without a belief in God.'"

In touching on a series of issues of concern to fundamentalist Christians, Bush reiterated his position on such matters as church-provided child care, abortion and prayer in the schools.

"I will not see the option of religious-based child care restricted or eliminated," he said.

Saying "many Americans disagree" on abortion, Bush said, "for my part, let me be clear, I support the sanctity of life. We need policies that encourage adoption, not abortion."

Wrong word too costly

Avianca pilot said priority instead of emergency

MELVILLE, New York Jan 30, (AP): Avianca Flight 52's declaration of a fuel shortage was relayed from regional traffic controllers to controllers handling its approach, but the urgency of the warning wasn't clear, authorities said yesterday.

The controllers were not told by the pilot that there was an emergency, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farrar said from Washington.

Farrar said the word used was "priority," which "has no particular meaning in air traffic control. If there is an emergency, you use the word 'emergency'."

The FAA report conflicts with information provided Sunday night by the John Nance, a former Braniff pilot.

Inspection of the crash site on a wooded hillside was nearly complete Monday, and investigators focused on conversations of the crew and controllers.

The investigators said tapes show the crew warned a regional controller that it was low on fuel about 45 minutes before the crash.

The jet flew in weather-related holding patterns totalling nearly 90 minutes along the east coast as it flew from Colombia to New York City's John F. Kennedy airport.

"We think we may need priority," a crew member told the control centre, according to preliminary transcripts, Farrar said.

A regional controller replied, "how long can you hold before you have to go to your alternate?" the alternate landing site was Boston.

"Wait a minute," the cockpit replied, pausing apparently to check the FAA said. "We can hold five minutes."

The FAA said the regional controller telephoned the control centre that handles approaches and departures for Kennedy.

The regional controller said Avianca 52 had just come out of the holding area "and can only do five more minutes of hold. Can you take him now?"

The local controller replied, "allow him to 180 knots and I will take him."

In the second such case, police have found another victim of last week's Avianca jet crashed who apparently was trying to smuggle cocaine into the country by swallowing it before boarding the flight in Colombia, authorities said today.

National Transportation Safety Board, which said the regional controllers had not relayed word of the fuel shortage to the local controllers.

After its engines stopped running, the Boeing 707 plunged into a secluded neighbourhood on New York's Long Island on Thursday night, killing 73 of 129 people aboard, including the cockpit crew. More than 20 survivors remained hospitalised in critical condition.

In Seattle, an airline safety analyst says fuel gauges on airplanes like the Boeing 707 that crashed on New York's Long Island are not highly accurate, especially when tanks are low and fuel is sloshing around.

"You could not trust them below 10,000 pounds (4,500 kilos) of fuel," said



Bush signing the fiscal year 1991 budget. (Reuter wirephoto)



Graph shows the site of four bases in Britain where cuts or closings are planned. (Reuter wirephoto)

Anti-Rushdie rally

UK drops charges

LONDON, Jan 30, (AP): The government will not prosecute a British Muslim leader who addressed a rally in October where crowds reportedly supported a death threat against writer Salman Rushdie, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday.

At the Muslim meeting in Manchester in northern England, Oct 21, Dr Kalim Siddiqui was quoted as asking the audience of Muslims to raise their hands in agreement with the death sentence imposed Feb 14 by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini on Rushdie.

In its report on the meeting, the Daily Telegraph said nearly all the 250 people in the audience raised their hands.

Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses," is considered blasphemous by many Muslims and the author has been in hiding since the death threat was announced.

The director of public prosecutions, Allan Green, decided there was insufficient evidence to prosecute Siddiqui, on charges of incitement to murder, said Lord McKay, the Lord Chancellor, who is the country's chief legal officer.

Lord McKay made the announcement in answer to a legislator's question in the House of Commons.

\$7.2b sought for air safety

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (Reuters): President George Bush asked Congress yesterday for \$7.2 billion to modernise US air traffic control facilities next year and to hire more air traffic controllers and safety and security specialists.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is spending \$15.8 billion to update its ageing radar control system to handle increasing air traffic in the United States.

Bush's request was part of an overall Transportation Department budget spending estimate of \$29 billion, about \$700 million more than Congress appropriated for this year, Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said.

He said Bush also asked Congress to give local governments permission to levy taxes for airport improvements.

Swiss press for unlimited access to secret files

BERN, Jan 30, (AP): Playwright-novelist Max Frisch and other prominent writers yesterday called on fellow Swiss to press for unlimited access to secret files compiled by the federal political police.

Ludwig Minelli, lawyer for the complainants, told a press conference he also was acting on their behalf in seeking a criminal inquiry into the surveillance methods of the political police, which he said violate Swiss law.

Frisch, a leading critic of the Swiss establishment, and his associates were reacting to the November disclosure by a parliamentary commission that political police files contain data on 900,000 people — one third of them Swiss nationals. Switzerland has a population of 6.5 million.

including more than a million foreign residents.

The parliamentary commission of inquiry was set up following the 1989 resignation of Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp. She stepped down after admitting that she had warned her lawyer husband to sever ties with a Lebanese-controlled company named in a confidential official report on money-laundering activities in Switzerland.

The revelation of what the press has labelled the "snooping scandal" has provoked nationwide debate with some comments likening the political police to the secret agencies operating in Eastern Europe prior to the upheavals there.

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In one of the largest military cutbacks in US history, Congress last year approved the closure of 86 military bases and the partial closure of five others by 1995.

They were on a "hit list" produced by the commission on base realignment and closure, appointed in May 1988 by Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci after consultation with congressional leaders.

South Korea says its defence will not be weakened by US plans to shut or scale back three bases on its territory.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the decision would have little impact on expected talks this year on renewing US base leases, which are set to expire in 1991.

Those bases earmarked for cutbacks included the San Miguel naval communication station, one of six US installations in the Philippines.

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Mandela may relax terms for release

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 30, (AP) — The government is considering relaxing Nelson Mandela's release from prison because of concerns about current unrest, newspapers said yesterday.

An aide to Mandela, meanwhile, said the black leader would continue his anti-apartheid fight if substantial reforms are not made, even if it means spending more time in custody.

But some top leaders of the African National Congress suggested during a visit to Norway that Mandela would accept a release from prison even if certain conditions were not met.

Mandela has been in prison since 1962 and is serving a life term for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government.

Several newspapers reported yesterday that the white-led government was considering delaying Mandela's release until at least March because of renewed unrest, including protests against a tour of English cricket players defying a ban on sports contacts with South Africa.

Police yesterday fired tear gas at a Roman Catholic church to break up a gathering of about 1,000 people, who were planning a protest against the English cricket squad.

Organiser Paul Ntuli said dozens of people suffered minor injuries in the clash at the church near the central city of Bloemfontein. Police confirmed the incident but declined to provide any details.

Inflamed

Government leaders were concerned that unrest might be inflamed by Mandela's release and by pending reforms, the reports said, citing unidentified sources.

Meanwhile, police used batons and tear gas to disperse more than 1,000 black railway workers following a union meeting in downtown Johannesburg. No injuries or arrests were reported.

The workers, some armed with clubs, danced and chanted in the streets following a discussion of a 12-week strike that was settled Saturday. More than 35 people died in violence related to the strike.

South African media have been awash in speculation on when Mandela might be released and the issue is dominating political life.

The Star reported yesterday afternoon that no decision had been made on when to release Mandela and the decision would be left to President F.W. de Klerk. The newspaper also said that De Klerk had not set a release date because he did not want to meet demands that the government legalise the outlawed African National Congress, the main black anti-government group.

De Klerk is expected to outline government reforms in a speech Friday at the opening of the new session of parliament. He has said he wants to dismantle apartheid.

9 held

Cannibals

FREETOWN, Jan 30, (Reuters) — Sierra Leone police said yesterday they had arrested nine people for the ritual murder and cannibalism of a 15-year-old girl over the weekend.

The girl was killed and part of her body was cooked and eaten in a ceremony aimed at helping a candidate to win a local election, Sam Turay, police chief in the country's Moyamba district, told reporters.

Belief in juju magic is common in many areas of West Africa.

Township life brought to world stage

Ngema wins accolades

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 30, (Reuters) — Music, dance and politics provide the pulse of life in the South African townships where Mbongeni Ngema grew up.

Ngema, 34, has brought those same elements to stages around the world and earned himself a host of awards.

The latest accolade is a nomination for a Grammy — the US music industry's highest award — for the soundtrack of his musical "Sarafina", now playing to capacity audiences in the United States and Europe.

"Sarafina" follows a high school girl who gives the musical its title and her class during the 1976 education riots in South Africa's biggest township, Soweto. About 600 students died in clashes with police during that year.

The musical, set to "Mbanga" music, the brash jive of the townships, has already won five nominations for Tony Awards, Broadway's equivalent of the Oscars.

But despite his international profile, Ngema's feet remain firmly planted in the environment which inspired his stage successes.

"I was very honoured," he told Reuters following the announcement of the Grammy nomination.

"Even though I travel so much around the world, in the end I always come back here and live my own humble life in the township, where things like the Grammys and the Tonys are not in our vocabulary," he said.

Ngema traces his fortunes to a childhood where music was an important part of family life.

"We had a band at home and my father was a guitarist. He had no formal training, but he was a country boy who grew up in the rural areas of Zululand where most people can play guitar."

Ngema followed in his father's footsteps, but trying to make a living from the guitar was by no means easy.

Being a musician in the townships means that you play your instrument and you might not have a place to sleep, food to eat. That's what my life was like," he said.

The progression from musician to actor came by accident. Ngema, then 19, was in the backing band for a township musical when an actor dropped out of a performance.

"I volunteered to take the part and from that point on



Ngema pictured below a poster advertising his musical "Sarafina." The soundtrack of the show, currently touring the US and Europe, has been nominated for the Grammy award. (Reuters wirephoto)

everybody encouraged me to go on acting," he said.

From acting, Ngema turned to writing his own material which led to a big break when he and a friend, Percy Mtwa, took their homespun review to Johannesburg's market theatre, a multiracial arts complex which has promoted some of South Africa's best theatrical and artistic talent.

Established director Barney Simon helped them to refine and rehearse and the show became a huge success.

Ngema then wrote and directed "Asinamali" (we have no money). The word was the rallying cry of a bitter protest against 1983 government tent increases in black townships.

The musical went to Broadway, but not before it had come up before the South African censors.

"We had a court case, they wanted to censor some scenes," said Ngema. But he argued that the scenes in question, one of which dealt with police informers, were based on fact. He won the case.

Ngema is not prepared to compromise. "I only do what I believe in," he said.

"There are records of mine that are not released in this country because record companies are afraid to use the material. My latest album 'Time to Unite', is released everywhere in the world except for South Africa."

Ngema makes no apology for the political content of his musicals and was dismissive of a New York critic who said that setting dramatic events like the 1976 riots to music undermined their importance.

Angola peace

Savimbi seeks big 2 help

LISBON, Jan 30, (AP) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said yesterday that pressure from the superpowers and his country's weariness with bloodshed would bring an end to civil war this year.

"The pressure for peace from inside and outside Angola will be so great, I don't see how either side will be able to continue fighting in 1990," he said. "We are going to launch an enormous effort to end the war this year."

Savimbi was speaking in Lisbon during a European tour that also will take him to Belgium, Switzerland, West Germany and possibly France to drum up support for his Unita guerrilla movement.

The rebels, supported by the United States, have been fighting for 16 years to force the Soviet-backed Angolan government to share power. Cuba sent troops in 1975 to help the government fight Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

Savimbi said Unita was involved in direct contacts with Cuba to provide guarantees that his rebels would not attack Cuban soldiers. Cuba last week

suspended the withdrawal of its troops from Angola after four Cubans were killed in a Unita raid.

Savimbi said lessening tension between the superpowers meant the Soviet Union would support a more active role for the United States in seeking a peace settlement for Angola, the rebel leader said.

Savimbi's remarks came against a background of increased diplomatic efforts to break a deadlock in the Angolan peace process. US envoy Herman Cohen was in London yesterday reportedly to hold talks with Soviet officials on the war in Angola.

A ceasefire agreement last June in Gbadolite, Zaire, collapsed within days.

Since December, Unita has been holding off what the rebels describe as the highest government offensive ever mounted against their strongholds.

Cuban soldiers in Angola have killed 33 Unita guerrillas in an apparent reprisal for a rebel attack that claimed the lives of four Cuban soldiers, according to reports in Luanda yesterday.

Jakarta floods

kill 187

JAKARTA, Jan 30, (AP) — The worst flooding in 20 years and resulting landslides have killed at least 187 Indonesians in the last six days, officials and news reports said yesterday.

Torrential rains caused rivers to overflow and on Sunday inundated most of eastern Jakarta, the capital. More than 21,000 people were affected, but no casualties were reported.

The official Indonesian news agency, Antara, reported last night that the bodies of 171 people had been recovered from floods and landslides in seven regencies of central Java province.

The death toll from the entire province was expected to be higher since many families were still looking for relatives, Antara said.

In addition to those deaths, 16 more bodies were retrieved in Indonesia's easternmost province — Irian Jaya. All 16 died in a Saturday landslide in Gurabesi district, just outside the provincial capital of Jayapura, a spokesman for the governor's office said.

Rescuers still were looking for one woman believed buried in the debris, he said.

Jayapura is about 3,000 kilometres (1,875 miles) north-east of Jakarta.

In central Java, an unidentified rescue officer told Antara that the death toll had risen to 30 people in a single landslide in Tembung, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the provincial capital of Semarang.



Noa Mu-Hyon (left) and Kim Sang-Hyon, two members of RDP, protest against merger of their party with the ruling South Korean party. (Reuters wirephoto)

US urged to grant passports

HK residents working for American firms

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd yesterday urged the United States to grant US passports to Hong Kong residents to help smooth the colony's transition from British to Chinese rule.

Many Hong Kong residents have been fleeing on the assumption that China will not let them leave after it takes over in 1997.

The new plan is intended to assure Hong Kong residents of their security by giving them US passports should they wish to

leave, Hurd told reporters after lunching with Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

Hurd said he also "mentioned" the idea in a later Oval Office meeting with President George Bush. "The President did not react," he told reporters outside the White House.

Hurd said it was "not because we are internationalising the problem; not at all. The political future of Hong Kong is a matter between us and China ... but I did suggest to Mr Baker and mentioned to the President that it would be helpful."

Hurd was meeting Bush and other leaders on his first trip to Washington since assuming office last October. His talks focused on upcoming changes within the Nato alliance in light of the changes sweeping away the old order in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Hurd said that if Hong Kong residents holding key positions leave the territory, stability could not be maintained during the complicated transition period. He said he told Baker that "it would be enormously helpful" if the United States provided pas-

ports to Hong Kong residents working for US firms.

The subject will come up again today when Hurd holds talks with members of Congress, where legislation is pending for such a measure.

Hurd said he had appealed to Baker for US understanding of his government's handling of more than 40,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong.

The British want to send most of the Vietnamese home, but the United States wants a one-year suspension of the forced repatriation to Vietnam.

Troops honoured for suppressing Tibetans

More than 400 Chinese get medals

BELJING, Jan 30, (Reuters) — Chinese authorities in Tibet have held a mass meeting to award more than 400 medals to police and troops who suppressed repeated demonstrations by Tibetan nationalists, an official report said.

Security forces have opened fire on several occasions, killing scores of people. Martial law was imposed on Lhasa and thousands of troops brought in last March after three days of riots and clashes with police.

The Tibet Daily said 323 "advanced individuals" and 92 "advanced groups" were commended at the ceremony presided over by regional Communist Party leader Hu Jintao.

"These revolts and riots ... are a serious political struggle aimed at splitting the motherland, opposing the Communist Party and overthrowing the socialist system," the newspaper said in its January 18 edition, which reached Beijing today.

One artillery officer described how he helped break up a demonstration of more than 1,000 Tibetans led by monks last October, the biggest reported protest since the regional capital of Lhasa was put under martial law in March.

The awards ceremony was held on Jan 17 in Lhasa, where Buddhist monks have staged a series of violent protests since September, 1987, demanding independence from China.

The demonstrations were "supported by hostile forces abroad, planned and organised," the Tibet daily said.

In a rare omission, the newspaper did not attack the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader who has been accused frequently by China of fomenting the unrest from across the border in India.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 during a mass uprising that failed to oust the Chinese, was awarded the Nobel peace prize last October for his "non-violent" struggle for Tibetan independence.

His award led to celebrations and renewed demonstrations in the streets of Lhasa.

The Tibet Daily carried a speech made at the awards ceremony by an artillery company commander who said he helped break up a protest march of more than 1,000 Tibetans led by five Buddhist monks on October 25.

"I didn't hesitate for a moment. Taking three men we plunged into the ranks of the demonstrators. With my left hand and right I grabbed two of the leading monks, quickly dragged them from the scene and immediately organised troops to break up the demonstration," commander Liang Jian said.

"After almost 20 minutes of fighting, by noon, this riot was quelled before it could develop," he added.

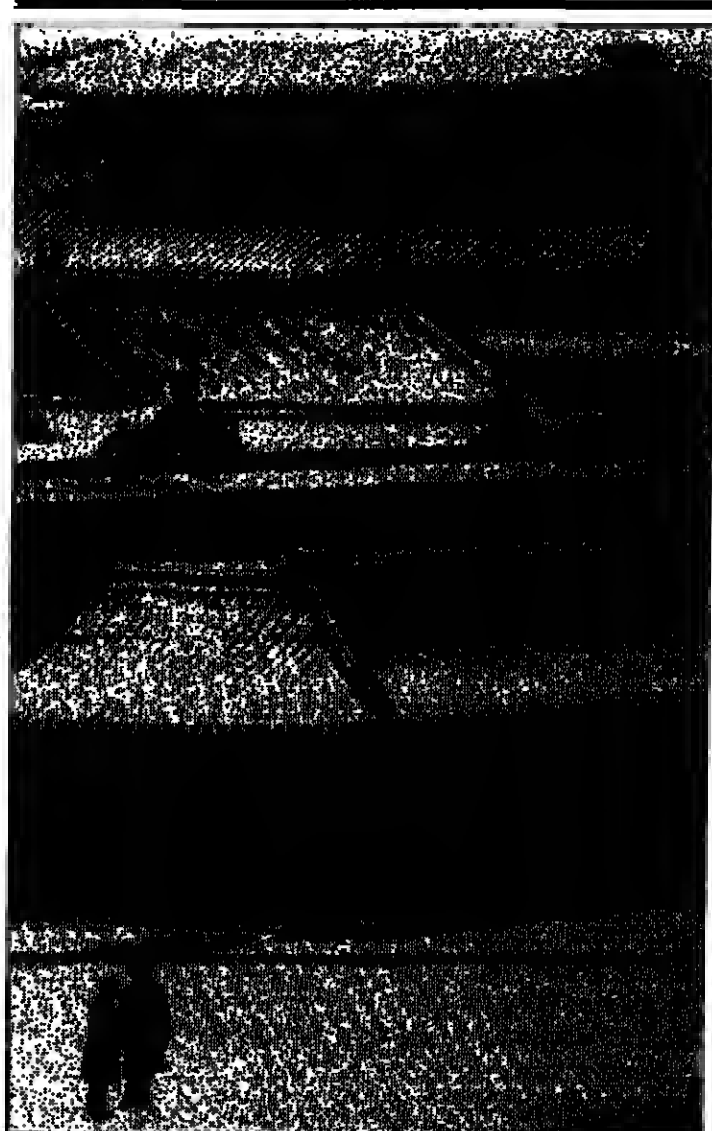
He did not say how many people were injured or arrested.

Chinese sources said that despite the headline rhetoric, attempts behind the scenes to arrange negotiations between Beijing and the Dalai Lama were continuing.

Meanwhile authorities are preparing to replace the president of one of China's leading law schools for being overly sympathetic to his students during last spring's protest movement, Chinese and Western sources said today.

Jiang Ping, the liberal president of China Politics and Law University in Beijing, had originally expressed a wish to step down from his post last summer but was persuaded not to by students, the sources said.

They said conservative ideologues are critical of Jiang for being too lenient with large numbers of students who demonstrated in last spring's protest.



Snow-bound

Beijing residents visiting the Forbidden City yesterday stand talking in the snow against the layers of tiled roofs outside the former Imperial Palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

Women seek vengeance

Fury over Japanese sex scandals

TOKYO, Jan 30, (Reuters) — Last time angry Japanese women flexed their political muscles they humbled the ruling party, but analysts doubt that even their mass hostility at Feb 18 lower house elections will be able to shake the party's 34-year hold on power.

It was women's fury over financial and sex scandals and an income sales tax that sparked the July 1989 voter revolt that saw the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lose control of the upper house of parliament.

Analysts said they found female voters still furious, despite desperate LDP efforts to placate them in the run-up to next month's crucial election.

But a combination of a split opposition, a complex electoral system and apparent male reluctance this time to back the women's anti-LDP crusade seems likely to result in the ruling party squeaking back, either by winning a bare majority itself or by recruiting conservative independents.

"It is difficult to forecast exactly what is going to happen in next month's elections," said Michitoshi Takabatake, politics professor at Rikkyo University.

"But one thing is certain: Women have remained angry and bitter against the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). They don't easily forget the Recruit (share-for-favours) scandal and the sales tax," he said.

With its inept introduction of the three per cent sales tax, Recruit and the sex indiscretions of the ephemeral Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, the party managed to outrage most

voters, but particularly women who, political analysts say, played a big part in their humiliating defeat.

At the height of public disaffection last July, in the elections when the LDP lost its upper house majority for the first time since the 1950s, a record 22 women won seats, all but two for opposition parties.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, chosen by LDP leaders to lift the party's sinking fortunes, set about wooing back the female vote. He appointed a woman to the key double post of chief cabinet secretary and government spokeswoman, proposed revising the unpopular sales tax, and began work on plans for political reform.

Kaifu's efforts failed to impress voters, many of whom told pollsters they wanted to see more drastic change. In a cynical public, the cabinet spokeswoman was just a token, a powerless puppet of the old male establishment.

A record 68 women are expected to run in next month's elections for the 512-seat lower house, though that chamber's electoral system makes it more difficult for novices to compete against veteran politicians.

"It's not Eastern Europe where democracy is retarded," shouts housewife Keiko Muramori, campaigning for a woman candidate in Tokyo. "It is here in Japan."

Toshihiko Hara, professor of sociology at Tokai University, said: "The female voters are still furious. The difference from last July is that now they are failing to mobilise the men, who have begun calculating their business interests."

RDP endorses merger plan

SEOUL, Jan 30, (AP) — The No. 2 opposition Reunification Democratic Party formally resolved today to disband and form a new political party with the ruling Democratic Justice Party and another opposition group.

The decision came at a special party convention held to endorse party President Kim Young-Sam's agreement Feb 22 with president Roh Tae-Woo and Kim Jong-Pil, head of the third-ranked New Democratic Republican Party, to merge the three parties into a giant conservative ruling party.

The present ruling party, led by Roh, and the NDRP are scheduled to hold party conventions Thursday and Monday respectively to take similar actions. The two parties were expected to approve

the merger.

Roh has said the new party, tentatively named the Democratic Liberal Party, will be a national party open to all moderate, middle-of-the-road democratic forces aimed at national reunification, welfare, justice and promotion of national culture.

Of 164 delegates, 881 attended the RDP convention today and an absolute majority of them approved the merger by voice vote.

Pope renews help Africa appeal

Don't be demoralised, Pontiff advises

BOBO-DIOULASSO, Burkina Faso, Jan 30, (Reuters) — Pope John Paul today renewed an impassioned plea to the world to help Africa and told some of the continent's poorest people not to be demoralised by their misfortune.

"I passionately call on all the world to support you who know the weight of poverty," the Pope told crowds who turned out for a mass at this dusty railway town in western Burkina Faso.

"I also ask you not to be discouraged," he added. The pontiff, nearing the end of a tour of poverty-stricken sub-Saharan Africa, believes it is an act of divine providence that he has been given the chance of reviving interest in Africa at a time when it risks being forgotten because of turmoil in Eastern Europe.

The Pope travelled from the capital, Ouagadougou, to a hero's welcome in predominantly Muslim Bobo-Dioulasso after making a similar appeal yesterday to the world to cast aside "fraternal indifference" and help Africa.

The Sahel region, one of the poorest in the world, has been brought to its knees by two decades of drought and the creeping advance of the Sahara desert.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls quoted the Pope as telling local bishops last night

that he could not have died in peace without launching his appeal to the world's conscience.

"If I had not done this I would not have been able to die in peace," he said.

Though mainly Muslim, thousands of cheering and dancing people in Bobo-Dioulasso welcomed the Pope as he was driven in his bullet-proof car from the airport to a mass held at the old colonial railway station.

About 30,000 people packed the square in front of the station and lined approach roads. A large sign at the station read: "Welcome to the Pope, leader of the Vatican and friend of the Sahel."

Many people climbed trees on the edge of the square and a sea of hands waved as the Pope saluted the crowd.

A choir dressed in costumes bearing the Pope's image chanted to drum music and brandished whisks traditionally used to frighten away evil spirits. Local people brought foundation stones for 10 new churches to be blessed by the pontiff.

In his homily, delivered under a blazing sun, the Pope called for Christian co-operation and dialogue with traditional religions and Muslims.

The local Muslim leader, Mama Sanou, told reporters: "There has been solidarity between our religions for so long."

delhi file

INTERNATIONAL

Romania ex-aides try to shift blame

BUCHAREST, Jan 30, (Agencies): The trial of four leading aides of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was adjourned today to allow prosecution and defence lawyers to call more witnesses.

The trial, which opened on Saturday, will be resumed on Thursday. Colonel Adrian Nitoiu, president of the military tribunal, ruled.

Former interior minister Tudor Postelnicu, 58, former Communist Party secretary Emil Bobu, 62, Manea Manescu, 73, and Ion Dincă, 61, the former deputy president and vice premier, are all accused of complicity in genocide. They face life imprisonment if convicted.

They have been accused of supporting orders from Ceausescu, who was toppled and executed last month, to shoot protesters during anti-government demonstrations in December.

Colonel Corneliu Pircalescu, commander of the paramilitary patriotic guard, testified today that Defence Minister General Vasile Milea committed suicide in his office after Ceausescu had called him a traitor and coward for refusing to order his troops to fire on demonstrators on Dec 21.

Milea's death resulted in the army joining anti-Ceausescu forces and backing the National Salvation Front which took over the country after the dictator's overthrow and arrest.

Other witnesses said they had seen Postelnicu beating up protesters including women. Postelnicu denied the allegation.

Hours before Ceausescu was toppled from power, the Communist Party chief told an emergency-politburo meeting that Milea was a traitor and had committed suicide.

Recalling that final meeting, Bobu told the tribunal yesterday "my intimate opinion is that the organisation of the assassination of Gen. Milea was made by the traitor Ceausescu."

Bobu recalled that Ceausescu had threatened at an earlier politburo meeting to put Milea "in front of a firing squad" because he tried to oppose an order to shoot demonstrators in the western city of Timisoara where the revolution began.

On Saturday, Dincă testified that Milea told Ceausescu Dec 17 that he had reviewed military regulations and he "didn't find anywhere that the armed forces should shoot the people."

Dincă, returning to the stand briefly yesterday, said he believed all four defendants had agreed at the time with Ceausescu's orders to shoot the demonstrators because they wanted to save their jobs.

Postelnicu also testified he did not have control over the hated Securitate secret police, despite allegations. He said he only was given control of the border guards two weeks before the revolution after famed Romanian gymnast Nadia Comăneci managed to escape to the West.

Postelnicu said the Securitate were commanded by Mrs Ceausescu "and partially by Ceausescu." He did not elaborate.

Regrets
Bobu, 62, formerly the third man in Ceausescu's communist hierarchy, sobbed as he expressed regret for his part on the second day of the proceedings. Romania's first public trial of top Ceausescu henchmen.

"My behaviour was contemptible," Bobu said, frequently wiping tears from his eyes with a white handkerchief. "I will regret what I have done till the end of my life."

Now I'm facing a military tribunal myself and I'm sure I shall be condemned and justly so," the silver-haired Bobu said, his voice breaking as he recalled his days as a military justice officer in the 1950s.

Monday's tribunal session, held as thousands of demonstrators massed in support of the provisional government in Bucharest, produced other revelations about the final days of Ceausescu's 24 years in power and the assets of some of its top officials.

The Swiss government said today it had to provisionally return as incomplete a Romanian request for aid in tracing funds reportedly hidden in Switzerland by Ceausescu.

Reds change colour but prospects bleak

WARSAW, Jan 30, (Reuters): Poland's communists have hauled down the red flag and changed their name to Social Democrat but they know it may be years before the left wins votes in a dramatic Poland.

Two Social Democratic groups emerged from a congress that disbanded the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) at the weekend but neither has much chance of winning popular support and one faces a further split.

Tadeusz Fiszbach's small Social Democratic Union of the Polish Republic

(SDUPR) walked out of the congress early to sever all ties with the old PUWP. Fiszbach is backed by Solidarity, which took government power from the communists in elections last year, but he lacks popular appeal.

The bigger Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) has a more charismatic leader in Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former youth and sports minister, but it includes communist officials and hardliners who are anathema to voters.

State TV said briefly that Kwasniewski's party was just the old Communist

Party under a new name.

"At 1 am today the PUWP ceased to exist and red flags came down from atop its buildings," a television report on the Congress said.

"But the SDRP is a continuation of the PUWP because it wants to take over its property and because we will see the same people as before among its activists."

To Kwasniewski's relief, hardliners are threatening to walk out of the SDRP, but he has no illusions about the future.

"Public trust is essential for every party

but this is very difficult for us," Kwasniewski told a news conference. "It is hard for us or for any other left-wing group that emerges."

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki warned today that chaos in reforming East bloc countries could strengthen the communist old guard and delay creation of a new political order.

"In some countries the supporters of the old regime are no longer in a position to determine the course of events but they can still impede it," he told the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe.



Poland's new Social Democratic Party leaders Kwasniewski (right) and Leszek Miller give victory salute after their election victories

German unity is not in doubt: Gorbachev

Court rejects govt bid to keep Honecker behind bars

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today the idea of German unity was not in doubt but he called for the issue to be resolved responsibly by East and West and "not on the streets."

Gorbachev made his remarks, the closest he has yet come to accepting the idea of reunification, to East German reporters just before he began talks in the Kremlin with East Germany's beleaguered Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Asked for his view on the possibility that the two German states "Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it," Gorbachev declared in clear acceptance that there was mounting pressure in the two Germanys for moves towards reunification.

But in an apparent appeal to West Germany and to the increasingly organised opposition parties and groupings in the East, he declared: "It is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets."

The communist-dominated government, meanwhile, suffered a setback in its bid to jail former leader Erich Honecker when a judge rejected its request to keep him behind bars until his treason trial in March.

The chief prosecutor's office appealed yesterday's decision by an East Berlin court. A spokesman said Honecker would go free today if the ruling stands.

Honecker was arrested and jailed yesterday upon his release from an East Berlin hospital, where he had a malignant kidney tumor removed Jan 8.

The communists' fervour in prosecuting past leaders and embracing popular causes comes amid a worsening economy, a continued flood of emigration to the West and a surge in protests. The government has moved up the promised elections from May to March 18 to placate the opposition. It also will overhaul the current interim cabinet to include opposition members.

The party, trying to win some support so it can gain a foothold in a new elected government, for the first time today acknowledged German unity as a long-term goal, but said it must be part of the process of overcoming Europe's overall divisions.

Modrow flew to the Soviet capital after agreeing to form a "national unity" government in East Berlin with no party affiliation and calling elections, in which the long-ruling communists are likely to be swept aside, for March.

The agreement, after difficult negotiations with the opposition, was made against a background of massive street demonstrations in East German cities in support of reunification.

In private, Moscow officials monitoring developments in the countries of the former Soviet bloc said they recognised that the impetus towards a merger of the two was now so strong that it was almost certain to prevail.

Official sources in the province said that pressure was growing on Kosovo Communist Party chief Rahman Morina to resign. They said the strongest opposition to Morina came from the regional government and that the Politburo was divided on whether he should step down.

Kosovo Information Minister Jorgovanka Millojevic told Reuters that reports from several villages in the area indicated that seven people had died in a week of clashes, as opposed to eyewitness reports of 16 deaths.

"But the figure is far from final," she added.

might reunite, the Kremlin chief replied that the unity question "was not unexpected. In principle, no one puts it in doubt," according to the official Tass news agency.

But he added, as quoted by Tass: "However, the course of events in the world, in the GDR and in the USSR demand profound reflection on, and an analytical approach to, this question, which is an important aspect of European and international politics."

NEWS IN BRIEF

US praises E. German election

ACTION: The State Department on Monday praised East Germany's decision to move up national elections to March and cautioned the interim rulers of Romania against backsliding from the country's move toward democracy.

Privately, US officials were relieved that the East German government had decided not to wait until May 6 to hold the elections. They had rated the communist government's chances of surviving until then as no better than 50-50.

Those chances may have been improved by the parallel decision in East Berlin to form a coalition government until the March 18 elections with opposition elements, a move that effectively ends the communists' domination. (AP)

Hungarians to protest price

INCREASES: More than 20,000 demonstrators chanting "we're fed up" rallied in front of the Hungarian Parliament Monday to demand price rises and to protest price hikes in foodstuffs and public transport.

"We do not want to use our final weapon, the general strike, but we are not ruling it out either," said Sandor Nagy, general secretary of the official Central Trade Union Federation, which helped organise the protest.

About 4,000 demonstrators later marched to the television headquarters to demand their views be broadcast, the official MTI news agency reported. The demonstration followed a series of price increases earlier this month, part of a government plan to cut the budget deficit and let the market set prices. Meat prices rose 32 per cent, dairy products 42 per cent, bread 29 per cent and cigarettes and liquor more than 20 per cent. On Thursday, public transport fares will go up 55 per cent. (AP)

Hungary wants to join Council of

EUROPE: Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemethi told the 25-nation Council of Europe on Monday that his country wants to join all European institutions.

He said Hungary attached "great importance to the... integration of Hungary into Europe."

He also said his country would "like to join the new European set of values by terminating all kinds of enmity with other peoples, ethnic groups and minorities."

He said he hoped the council would admit Hungary as a full member this year in view of the "ongoing historic changes in our country and the broadening contacts" between Hungary and the Council of Europe. (AP)



Murder charge

Udo Proksch, one of Vienna's best known coffee house owners, went on trial in connection with an alleged insurance swindle. The charges were extended to murder of six people and attempted murder of another six. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stealth technology fitted to F-16: New equipment has been fitted to American-built F-16 fighter planes in the US and Dutch air forces to help them evade enemy radar, the British magazine Jane's Defence Weekly said.

Photography of the aircraft with gold-coloured cockpit canopies that scatter radar energy prove the F-16s have the so-called Stealth technology, making them harder to detect, Jane's reported in its latest issue. (Reuters)

Argentine President's office bugged:

Sophisticated eavesdropping devices have been found in Argentine President Carlos Menem's office and on telephones at his official residence, security chief Brig. Andres Antonietti said on Monday.

Security officers spent the weekend searching government house and found "not a few high-techology microphones hidden in the most incredible places, including the office of President Menem," Antonietti told a news conference.

"We even found some in the flower pots" in several internal patios in the century-old building, Antonietti said. (AP)

SPD proposes Lafontaine to take on Kohl in Dec polls

BONN, West Germany, Jan 30, (AP): West Germany's Social Democratic leader yesterday proposed Oskar Lafontaine, the outspoken governor of Saarland state, as the party's candidate to challenge Chancellor Helmut Kohl in December elections.

Lafontaine is a politician "who can speak to the people and who can convince them," Social Democratic Party (SPD) chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel told reporters in announcing his choice.

Vogel told reporters the opposition party's board will discuss Lafontaine's candidacy early in March.

A final decision will be made at a national party

congress in early autumn, but Vogel's endorsement along with those from other influential SPD members is likely to assure Lafontaine of the candidacy.

An independent-minded leftist, Lafontaine is the party's deputy chairman.

The Saarland governor told reporters he would take a three-week vacation to consider whether he would accept the party's nomination. But in recent weeks, Lafontaine has clearly stated he was willing to try to unseat Kohl.

Lafontaine's already good prospects of becoming the Social Democrats' standard bearer received a major boost after he led the party to a resounding

victory in Sunday's elections in his home state.

The 46-year-old Saarland governor handed Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union the latest in a string of local setbacks. The Free Democrats, Kohl's centrist partner in the governing Bonn coalition, also lost seats.

Nationally known and respected as a tough career politician, Lafontaine is expected to be a strong opponent as Kohl bids for a third four-year term as the West German leader.

Sunday's vote in Saarland was an unexpectedly strong endorsement for Lafontaine's entry into the national politics, as the Social Democrats widened its absolute majority in the state parliament.



An ethnic Albanian throws a stone at police during clashes in Kosovo. (Reuters wirephoto)



Armed police walk along a railway line following clashes with ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Albanian-Serb clashes feared

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Jan 30, (Reuters): Mohs of Christian Serbs and Muslim Albanians faced each other across a cordon of riot police today in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo, where 16 people have died in riots.

Witnesses said police moved in to prevent clashes between ethnic Albanian and Serbian communities in Mogila, about 40 km (25 miles) south of the Kosovo capital, Pristina.

The situation threatened to develop into the first inter-ethnic clash after a week of battles between police and Albanians who are demanding free elections and the resignation of Kosovo's Serbian-controlled leaders, the witnesses said.

The potentially explosive situation in Mogila, and new demonstrations by thousands of Albanians throughout Kosovo, came one day after Yugoslavia's federal leaders appealed for an end to bloodshed in the province.

Kosovo, a part of Yugoslavia's biggest republic Serbia, has been torn for decades by tensions between its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic

Albanians and 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins. Over 40,000 Serbs and Montenegrins have fled the province over the past 10 years, saying the Albanians were driving them out in a bid to create a wholly-Albanian Kosovo.

Sixteen people have died in the past week, the worst violence in the province bordering on Albania, since last March when 28 people died in ethnic Albanian protests against curbs on the province's self-rule in favour of Serbia.

Official sources in the province said that pressure was growing on Kosovo Communist Party chief Rahman Morina to resign. They said the strongest opposition to Morina came from the regional government and that the Politburo was divided on whether he should step down.

Kosovo Information Minister Jorgovanka Millojevic told Reuters that reports from several villages in the area indicated that seven people had died in a week of clashes, as opposed to eyewitness reports of 16 deaths.

"But the figure is far from final," she added.

Timisoara 'mass grave' had bodies legally buried

PARIS, Jan 30, (Reuters): The supposed mass grave uncovered in the Romanian city of Timisoara during last month's revolution was a manifestation of mass psychosis not mass murder, a Romanian expert was quoted today as saying.

The bodies in the grave, which were decomposed and bore no traces of bullet wounds, had been legally buried — not shot and hidden by the Securitate secret police on Dec 17 as the shocked population believed, professor Milan Dressler of the Timis district morgue said.

Dressler told the Paris daily Le Figaro in Timisoara that the 20 or 50 bodies unearthed at the Paupers' Cemetery were among 64 unclaimed bodies of vagrants, indigents

and babies. They had been buried in three common graves at the cemetery between Jan 1 and Dec 19 last year. Many of them bore autopsy scars.

He said the number now known to have been killed when troops and police fired on demonstrators was not 4,000 as reported but less than 100.

Dressler said there was no doubt the Securitate had tried to hide evidence of the massacre, prompting a general public search for bodies.

"At the Paupers' Cemetery people were seen scrambling at freshly-dug earth with their bare hands. That's how they came across the common graves."

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Media welcomes assurances of dialogue

Parliament revival excesses criticised

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Kuwait newspapers today welcomed government assurances of continued dialogue on revival of parliamentary life in the country and agreed that the hoped-for dialogue would be torpedoed if approached with defiance and clamour.

Four dailies devoted their editorials to comment on yesterday's meeting between chief editors of the Kuwait press and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah who has reiterated the need for thoughtful dialogue between the rulers and the ruled.

One Arabic daily said the dialogue could lead oowhere without good faith and keeo desire to shield the country against the impact of violent political changes.

Criticising "excesses" to which some quarters went in pressing for resurrection of parliamentary life, the paper said that Kuwait has a peculiar structure and must

not necessarily emulate other models of democracy.

Pointing out that Kuwait's parliamentary experiment has previously exposed the country to "shake-ups and crises", the paper said revival of the same experience would not be a goal in itself.

"The important thing is that there should be agreement on some controls that prevent (the parliament) from slipping into bickering, fanning of feuds and resurrection of tribal and religious divisions," the paper concluded.

Another Arabic daily in an editorial entitled "We all want this dialogue" said HH the Crown Prince's new call for dialogue indicated that the dispute, if any, between the leadership and the people is "marginal" and should not block the desired end.

But it joined the first daily in referring to "rules and controls" for the proposed

dialogue as to ensure that it would be a process of persuasion and exchange of thoughts.

Another daily said the search for a formula of dialogue "calls for high seriousness on the part of all in the process of exploration."

Championing the political leadership's advocacy of prudent and extensive dialogue before resolution of parliamentary life, the paper said:

"Discovering something on which the entire national life would depend on has to be debated in an atmosphere where argument and patriotism win."

The paper warned, however, that revival of parliament cannot be achieved by skipping the factors that led to the dissolution of the old one.

It suggested a wiser approach this time and stressed that "democracy can never be a threat in a country where problems are

discussed and debated with understanding to solve them."

A third Arabic daily said the dialogue the country is experiencing must not be reduced to a hollow discussion where loud shouts could prevail.

Apparently referring to recent rallies, the paper said in an editorial the "alien" atmosphere engulfing Kuwait is a testimony that some have failed to learn the lesson from the past parliamentary life experiment in Kuwait.

Continued defiance could lead "to more than a confrontation and this could be the most serious menace to Kuwait at this important and grave stage of its march," the paper warned.

Calling for a wiser approach, it added "Let's turn a new page through the gate of objective and meaningful dialogue... towards the appropriate parliamentary formula."

Kuwait relief plane leaves for Tunisia

Four more scheduled

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): A military cargo plane of the Kuwait Airforce left here today for Tunis carrying the first batch of relief material donated by Kuwait to flood victims in Tunisia.

Kuwaiti assistance to Tunisia comes in response to orders of His Highness the Amir following recent rains and floods that hit the Arab country.

The relief material includes medicines, blankets, tents and foodstuff.

Informal sources have said that four other planes are expected to be sent in two batches, first of which is scheduled for early February, they said.

The Kuwaiti government announced the dispatch relief aid

to Tunisia Sunday to help alleviate the heavy damage and suffering caused by the recent floods that hit the country's southern and central parts.

The Kuwaiti cabinet also extended sympathies and condolences to the Tunisian people because of this natural disaster.

Tunisians expressed thanks and appreciation to the government and people of Kuwait for the generous initiative, which, they said, reflected the close bonds existing between peoples of the two countries and the Arab nation.

Last week's floods had killed 30 people, 13 others were reported missing and extensive material damage was caused to public and private property.

Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Habib Kaabachi also praised Kuwait's financial and moral aid for the flood victims.

Kaahachi in two separate statements in Arabic dailies said the Kuwaiti attitude is consistent with the country's policy of supporting Islamic and Arab brotherly countries.

He said the storm had killed no less than 56 people, destroyed 15,000 houses and left 72,000 persons homeless in addition to damaging roads, bridges, railroads and agriculture and animal resources.

Kaahachi estimated the damage at around \$50 million but he reaffirmed the precise estimates were not available yet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): HH the Amir received in audience today HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahab Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

Envoys credentials

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir will receive the credentials of five newly-appointed ambassadors to Kuwait tomorrow.

The ambassadors who are scheduled to present their accreditation letters in a special ceremony at Bayan Palace are of Venezuela, Italy, Burundi, Switzerland and Ethiopia.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received at his diwan at Bayan Palace President of UN General Assembly Joseph Garba on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.

The audience was attended by acting foreign undersecretary Faisal Al Mutawa and Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mohammed Abu Al Hassan.

Tax exemptions

RIYADH, Jan 30, (Kuna): An agreement between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and South Korea on mutual exemption on taxes and customs charges for the activity of air transport corporations of the two countries, has been signed here today.

The agreement was signed by Mohammed Aha Al Khail, Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy and the South Korean ambassador to the kingdom.

The agreement is aimed at mutual exemption from paying taxes imposed on the income of air transport corporations and exemption from customs fees and other taxes imposed on materials and equipments imported by air transport corporations of the two countries.

Eritreans praise

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Eritrean Workers Trade Unions Federation, Kuwait branch, has praised Kuwait for siding with the Eritrean people in their just struggle for independence.

In a statement issued here yesterday at the end of their annual congress, the independence-seeking organisation voiced support to the Palestinian uprising and condemned the Israeli-Ethiopian alliance directed against aspirations of the Eritrean people.

"This unsacred alliance poses a threat to security and stability of all nations in the region taking into consideration that the unholy alliance is a serious danger to security in the Red Sea and Arab national security," the statement said.

The statement urged Arab countries to render urgent assistance to the Eritrean people to enable them confront the threat.

In loving memory of Mrs. May Beranger



who died suddenly under tragic circumstances
January 26th, 1990.

With love — son Russell, Neville, Sherrie Denver, Rosay, Mohammed and loving friends.
May Her Soul Rest in Peace



Capital Scout Camp opened

The Education Minister, Anwar Al Nouri, opened the 44th Scouts Camp for the Capital Educational Area, Sunday. The opening was attended by the Ministry of Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodhari, the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Student Affairs, Abdul Mehsin Al Saeed, the Director of Capital Educational Area, Khaled Al Salahi, and a number of high-ranking officials and parents. The opening included several entertainment and musical activities in addition to programmes explaining the harm of narcotics. Parents also participated during the opening festivities.

activities and praised the efforts exerted by officials in this field.

The minister hoped that the camp will benefit all students and teachers. He added that next year will witness a unified camp ground for all educational areas. The ministry was forced to hold a separate camp for each educational area this year due to the inadequate geographic location of the proposed unified camp.

Scouting activities are very essential to the educational process, Nouri pointed out.

French magazine highlights Kuwait's progress in 30 years

PARIS, Jan 30, (Kuna): As the 29th National Day approaches, an Arab-affairs monthly magazine today highlighted the rich history and vast progress achieved by Kuwait as well as preparations to enter the 21st century.

"What else are the Kuwaitis dreaming of when their present surpasses fiction and in 30 years they achieved work of three hundred years," the monthly "Arabies" said in an article written by Arab affairs expert Paul Balta.

The magazine shed light on the history of Kuwait from the Dilmun Civilization that dominated the Gulf region in the third century before Christ and through

the visit of Alexander the Great in 326 A.D.

It added the history of Kuwait and its isle of Failaka following the Abbasid era, which is marked by the arrival of the Portuguese who built forts on the island and on the land in the sixteenth century.

Chronology

The magazine article also gave chronology of the ruling Amirs of Kuwait, starting with Sheikh Sabah Bin Jaber who founded Kuwait in 1756.

It explained the difficult living conditions in pre-oil Kuwait, noting that many men were lost to the waters of the gulf on their trade and pearl-diving voyages.

Arabics highlighted the importance given by the country to the field of education, noting that the first official school opened in 1911.

Scientific progress is another concern of the Kuwaiti leadership, said the magazine, noting the creation of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in 1967 which was followed by founding the Science Club for youth.

In its conclusion, the magazine highlighted the growing relations between Kuwait and France which received a new boost during the visit of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to France last September.

From the courts

Suspended sentence for doctor

THE Court of Higher Appeal reduced the sentence passed by the Court of Misdemeanours against a doctor for causing the accidental death of a patient.

Dr. Alasa from Jahra Hospital was accused of administering an injection to a patient which was alleged to contain a detergent.

The court was told that the patient was rushed to the hospital suffering from diarrhoea. To conduct a coloured X-ray test, the doctor administered what he thought was the appropriate injection.

According to sources, the doctor had ordered for the injection to be brought from the pharmacy of the hospital. As it was delayed he personally went to bring it and met the orderly coming in with a bottle which he believed to be what he had ordered. Unfortunately, it contained detergent. The patient died the next day.

However, considering the mitigating circumstances, the Court of Higher Appeals reduced the original sentence from two years to six months imprisonment — which was ordered to be a suspended sentence.

The criminal court has sentenced one M.S. to seven years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation on the charge of attempting to assault a child. The court heard that the child went to a charity society with his relative. The defendant met him there and asked the victim to visit the cassette shop. When the child came to the shop, the defendant embraced him and touched his body. The child resisted him and shouted for his relative. The defendant released him immediately. The child further said that his uncle gave him money to buy sweets from the canteen of the society in which the defendant was working. When he went there, the defendant embraced him again but released him when the child began shouting again.

Oystermen bemoan drop in prices

A NUMBER of oyster catchers have complained of the drop in the sales of oysters during the present time, even though diving for oysters in cold weather is difficult due to increasing cramps, they added.

One of the oystermen, Abdul Aziz Bu Azouz said that oysters are sold in sacks of different sizes. On an average a sack of oysters is sold for KD5 — though the price fluctuates according to availability of supplies. The wholesale turnover in the market amounts to about KD1,000 per

day. He said the HH the Amir has directed that a special place be allocated for an oyster market to preserve this national heritage.

Another oysterman, Jamal Al Tarkit said that most oysters sold in the market are caught from Jileia area. He disclosed that some citizens still dive for oysters and pearls, not for the monetary returns, but to preserve the profession of their grandfathers.

He said that these days, diving for oysters is undertaken during daylight and operations are coo-

ducted in deep waters. Prices of oysters differ as each oyster caught in a particular place differs from another.

He added that the most serious danger that face divers and oyster catchers is the shark. However, in the recent past, no attempts by sharks to savage divers has been reported. In the past, divers have been known to be the victims of shark attacks and were known to carry a knife to their legs to be used in case of an attack. This practice still prevails, Tarkit said.

Kuwaitis-Soviets to join hands for book

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Kuna): A Soviet delegation led by parliament member and director of the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences Mikhail Kapitsa returned to Moscow after a recent visit to Kuwait.

Kapitsa in an interview with official Soviet News Agency Tass, said that Kuwaiti compatriots devoted special interest to historical relations between the Soviet Union and Arab countries.

The Soviet Union possesses a unique collection of historical documents that include a visit by Soviet war ships to Kuwait in the year 1913.

He added that a book which includes all these possessions and other material is being prepared for printing by concerned departments in the two countries.

Kapitsa added that during his meeting in Kuwait with Dean of the Language Centre of Kuwait University Dr. Rasha Al Sabah and Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Muharak Al Hamad Al Sabah the two sides decided to sign a protocol over a joint research on the characteristics of Kuwait history.

Kuwait will finance the research which would be conducted in the Soviet archive.

A Kuwaiti delegation is expected to visit Moscow for this purpose.

Kapitsa said that the Soviet Institute for Oriental Studies is conducting profound research on the development of the Kuwaiti society in general.

A book entitled "Kuwait from the 60's till the 90's" will be published, including an overall review of the Kuwaiti parliamentary experiment, labour trade unions and technical union life and its development.

Kuwait to participate in cultural meetings

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Adviser at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein flies to Paris on Thursday to attend meetings of the governmental committee on the international decade for cultural development.

Hussein, a committee member, said the February 5-9 meeting will review progress reports of national committees responsible for execution of activities of the decade for cultural development.

The conference, the committee's second session, will be attended by representatives from 36 countries who will examine progress of 234 projects being implemented by global cultural organizations and governments, Hussein told Kuna today.

Kuwait, he said, has set up its own decade committee which is overseeing cultural activities in the country.

Perfumes and cosmetics

Gulf urged to set up integrated industry

ABU DHABI, Jan 30, (GNA): A local industrial establishment urged the development of an integrated perfumes and cosmetics industry in the area. Presently, the region depends mainly on the blending of imported ingredients to produce perfumes with exclusive appeal to Gulf citizens, or repacking of imports.

A statement by the UAE Industrial Bank said that the perfumes and cosmetics industry and trade are of special importance, despite the few factories operating in this business.

The statement pointed out that there were five small factories producing different types of perfumes and cosmetics, which relied heavily on manual packaging.

The statement added that the perfume industry was an old manual profession in the region, including the UAE. However, new techniques were introduced into this business over the past few years which led to the production of high-quality perfumes of international standards which was met with tremendous acceptance in international markets.

The statement outlined the relative importance of the UAE perfume and cosmetics imports, pointing out that perfumes imported from France stood first in the list and totalled in value DH99 million in 1988, while British perfume came second at DH34 million and third came West German perfumes at the value of DH11 million.

The statement said that the total value of the country's imports of perfumes and cosmetics over the last year reached DH335 million for an estimated 7,574 tons.

The demand for imported perfumes and cosmetics was comparatively greater than the projected needs of the current population in the country, attributing the reason to the high living standards in the UAE which reflected a high demand for luxury products.

Local and Gulf investors had high potential investment opportunity in the establishment of a joint perfume and cosmetics industry in the Gulf, noting that the business could flourish in the region, given the current local demand for these products, the statement said.

KPC annual employee increments reduced to 5pc

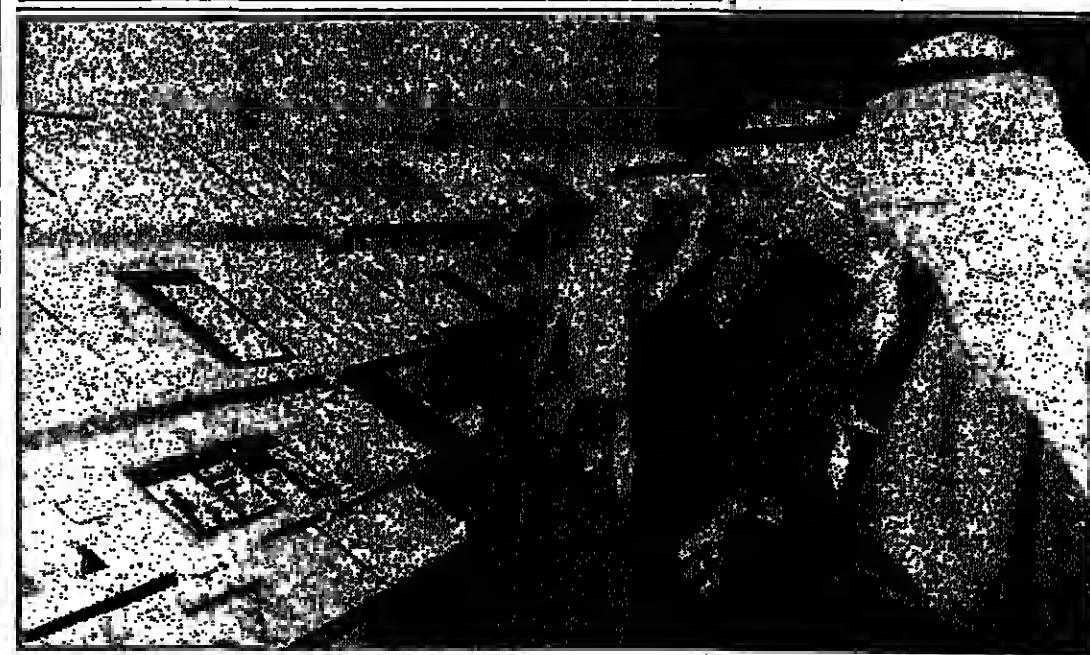
THE chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Labourers Union, Hamad Soyan said that the company in co-ordination with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has reduced annual increments of employees from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent.

By this action, every labourer will lose a considerable amount of money on an annual basis, the official said.

Soyan said: "The Union is dismayed at this decision

which has been announced at a time employees are doing their utmost to enhance output." He added that the company's action had negatively affected the social allowance increases adopted recently at the government employees level.

The union, in co-operation with Unions of Petrol Companies, is endeavouring to restore the previous average of social allowances which is considered a vested right, Soyan said.



Official information exhibition

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Rashid inspects various publications at the opening of a symposium on official information.

EPC to discuss various environ studies

By Jamal Ameen

THE Kuwait Environmental Protection Council will discuss a number of topics dealing with the Kuwaiti long-term requirements in the field of environmental research. These include consideration of all research studies prepared by university studies and those of higher studies, MSC or PhD.

These research studies on environmental biology should explore the effects on the country's ecological system and related aspects and determine the toxicity level.

Studies on environmental engineering cover all grave problems and available remedy measures, which involve the evaluation of new environmental control techniques, their reliability and economic feasibility.

The studies also covers ways to upgrade the performance of incinerators, recycling of solid municipal wastes, which includes de-toxification and stabilisation of organic matter before safe burial in designated locations, evaluation of ways used to reduce indoor pollution levels, thermal disposal of waste and upgrading the performance of incineration vaults to control the emission of pollutants.

These also involve the study of chemical reaction and physical changes sustained by air and water pollutants, ways to determine the

level of pollutants in the air, through chemical analysis and identify the type of pollutants inside buildings through mathematical modelling.

The studies cover the pollutants of fresh and briny water, around coastal areas, soil and underground water and silt, which also involve the transition of pollutants carried by surface and underground water to forecast the effects of surface factors on underground water.

In a related move the Kuwait Science Club yesterday launched the Marine Environment Association, a group intended to encourage youths to learn more about marine ecology and ways to protect it.

Association head Mahmoud Khaled Al Jasser told Kuna in an interview that membership applications are being accepted and applicants can choose any of the association's three committees which specialise respectively in diving, aqua-life and research.

The association, according to its head, will seek to organise training courses of diving, marine safety, coral reefs, marine oil pollution and a host of other sea-related topics.

A special library is being planned in co-operation with the Science Club, he added.

The club has at least 10 other associations which range in their activities from electronics and home workshops to avionics and automobiles.

Interim mujahedeen government seeking recognition

Sayaf holds talks with Sabah

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Head of the Afghan mujahedeen interim government Abul Rab Al Rasoul Sayaf held a round of talks this afternoon with Deputy Premier and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The talks were attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud M. Al Osaibi, acting foreign undersecretary

Faisal S. Al Mutawa and other Kuwaiti senior officials in addition to the Afghan delegation.

Following the meeting, Sayaf told reporters that the mujahedeen have now excluded dialogue with the government as means for solving the Afghan problem.

"Our point of view is that an internal dialogue is not the road for a viable and

feasible solution," expressed Sayaf who arrived here yesterday heading a delegation comprising three ministers in his government.

Solution

"The appropriate solution," he told reporters, "is to stop foreign support to the Kabul government," noting that his government enjoys a wide support from

the Afghan people and should be supported by countries in the world.

Saudi Arabia, from where Sayaf arrived, is one of very few countries which recognise the interim government.

Sayaf said the talks with the top Kuwaiti diplomat were "beneficial and dealt with all questions pertinent to Afghan internal political situation."

Kisr devising plan to manage oyster beds

Pearl culture industry under study

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times Staff

ONCE the lifeblood of Kuwait's economy and now in danger of depletion, pearl oysters may resurface as the object of a new national industry.

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is undertaking a project that aims at devising a plan to manage pearl oyster stocks in Kuwaiti waters and studying the economic feasibility of pearl culture in Kuwait. The project is partially funded by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

"Pearl oyster fishing is still alive. More than 6 million oysters are landed annually in Kuwait's oyster market," says project leader, Dr Sulaiman Al Matar. He believes that fishing operations should be regulated to prevent possible depletion of existing stocks.

"The best way to regulate fishing activities is by implementing a management plan that is arrived at after thoroughly studying different aspects of fishing activities as well as estimating the size of existing stocks of pearl oyster," Matar said. He explained that such a plan might limit the number of boats allowed to fish for pearl oyster in regional waters, or suggest a closed season for three or four months a year to allow small oysters to grow or large ones to spawn.

In order to locate oyster beds, researchers also to turn to experienced old divers. "We know that pearl oyster fishing today is concentrated in the area from Shuaiba to Khairan. But old timers were able to give us exact locations of beds they used to fish early in the century," said Matar enthusiastically. "Some of them kept charts, but most of them just had the information stored in their memories."

The project leader says old timers were also able to give accurate descriptions of the sizes of oyster beds, their density and the kinds of weeds and other forms of marine life associated with them.

Researchers dive to the beds which usually are one-half to two kilometres in area, count the oysters and record the depth, water temperatures and salinity. They



Dr Sulaiman Al Matar measures the length of a pearl oyster to determine its growth rate.

also make random dives to discover new beds and map them.

"We are working on identifying areas of high spat (young oysters) fall and the time of the year when it occurs," said Matar explaining that spat need a rocky bottom to stick to and grow or else they die. Spat collectors, iron frames with lines of oyster shells, are placed underwater and checked periodically for the number of spat clinging to them.

"Such information about pearl oysters is not only essential for coming up with a good management plan, but also to the second task of our project, which is the economic feasibility study of pearl culture in Kuwait," stated Matar.

The study will explore whether it is profitable to establish a pearl culture industry in Kuwait, and if so on what scale. It will also examine manpower costs, expected market price for pearls and possible export markets for the product.

Although Kuwaiti pearls are known for their special shine, researchers have noticed from daily monitoring of the oyster market that the rate of good-sized pearls found to the number of oysters open is approximately one in five thousand. A pearl 3mm in diameter is valued at KD50-60.

Dr Matar expects work on the project to be completed in July.

Housemaid issue still under debate in Kuwait

HOUSEMAIDS are still a hot topic for debate in society with some for and some against the continued employment of such expatriates.

Some opined that maids do have a positive effect on families and others comment that relying on housemaids represent one of the disadvantages in Kuwaiti society in general.

A local daily canvassed a number of citizens to determine their opinions on the issue and whether they could do without maids.

Maleka Bader Khalifa said that she employed a maid in her house five years ago, but added that she can do without her services at anytime. She pointed out that her maid only looks after secondary house affairs like cleaning the house and washing. Having a maid has become a social symbol and is not related to actual living needs, she said.

Assistance

Rabab Abdul Majed said that she has for the past 20 years relied on the services of housemaids and will find it difficult to do without their services. She stressed that current social life requires the assistance of a housemaid.

She added that the nature of her job as a teacher besides being a housewife, compels her to hire a maid. She needs a maid to help her look after the children during the morning period when she is at school. She stated that one of the reasons most housewives believe that housemaids are important is because they do not constitute much of a burden on the family budget in comparison to the return they give by way of dealing with washing, cleaning, and the handling of day-to-day household chores.

Impact

Saham Mohammed Saeed is not in favour of hiring a housemaid and said that since she got married, she has personally attended to all her household needs, including the needs of her children. She said that in general maids have a negative impact on children. The difference in culture, language, manners, and modes of behaviour between maids and those who employ them to look after children cause several problems, she said.

Saeed specifically stressed on the maids drawbacks in relation to their continual contact with children who tend to imitate their ways. Being at an impressionable age, these formative years of children are very vital to their adolescence and it is imperative that they should be guided by their parents and immediate members of the family.

Flag hoisting, athletic meet for Lankans

A PRESS release from the Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait has stated that there will be a flag hoisting ceremony to mark the National Day of Sri Lanka at 9.00 am on Sunday, Feb 4 1990, at the embassy premises. All Sri Lankans are welcome.

On Friday 9th February 1990, all Sri Lankans are welcome for the Sports N Athletics meet commencing at 9.00 am at Al Arabi Stadium Mansouria.

The ambassador kindly requests the sponsors of Sri Lankans to permit the Sri Lankans to participate in this event on the Feb 9 1990.

Discrimination in sport conference

Kuwait to play host

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): The State of Kuwait will host the international meeting of the committee for combat of racial discrimination in sports and Olympic fields due to convene next February 19, it was announced here yesterday.

Kuwait was chosen by the International Olympic Committee to organise the session which will be attended by the IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and all members of the International Olympic Committee, the Asian Olympic Council said here.

The IOC has chosen Kuwait to host the meeting in appreciation of the effective role being played in the

country in fighting all forms of racial segregation and in gratitude for the Kuwaiti sports movement's sincere efforts of realising just and fraternal bonds among sportsmen within the international Olympic movement.

President of the Kuwait based Asian Olympic Council Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Jaber (of Kuwait) is a staunch advocate of combating all forms of racial segregation in sports.

The committee for combat of racial discrimination in sports and Olympic movement fields is chaired by jurist Kba Mbal of Senegal, who is also president of The Hague-based International Court of Justice.



British envoy hosts reception

British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe Monday hosted a reception for the delegates of the British Schools Conference, which opened Jan 29 in Kuwait. Head teachers and teachers from 50 British schools in the Gulf and Middle East are taking part. This is the first time such a conference was held in Kuwait. Peter Watkins, deputy chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, was invited by the British Council to give a keynote speech. The theme of the conference was the "National Curriculum," which was introduced in the UK schools in September 1989. Several educational workshops were also held. Picture shows Peter Watkins (centre) with guests at the reception.

Information symposium

Call for independent authority

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times Staff

A SPEAKER at the Scientific Symposium on official information and its role in scientific research and decision making, called yesterday for the establishment of a central independent authority for producing and compiling official information in Kuwait. Professor of Civil Law at Kuwait University, Dr Bader Al Yacoub also called for qualifying skilled manpower to produce this type of information, publish and circulate it.

In his lecture about the legal and organisational aspects of sources and production of official information in Kuwait, Dr Yacoub spoke about the country's legislation in this field. He said that the main source of official information in Kuwait remains official documents. But he said that the sources of issuing such documents vary in size and importance.

Yacoub added that a draft bill has been prepared requiring that official documents and other publications must be deposited at the national library of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. The bill has stipulated a number of penalties for government agencies failing to send copies of their documents to the library. The bill was submitted to the state minister for cabinet affairs. On the problems of producing official information in Kuwait, Dr Yacoub said that unavailability of unified technical equipment, shortage in skilled technicians, the presence of many official sides producing the information and the overlapping in

their duties, are some of the problems. He stressed that publication and circulation of official information is basically allowed, except if the law decides otherwise. He added that the publication of official information should be intended to benefit researchers and other interested persons.

Dr Yacoub emphasised on the important role information plays in modern life. It is integrally linked with all aspects of human activity like production, basic research, development aspects in services and others. He also demanded that the government should assign the central independent authority that should be established, to circulate and market official information to achieve the maximum benefit.

In another lecture delivered by the Planning Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Affairs, Mused Al Omam, the lecturer called for setting up a planning and co-ordination department for official information. He spoke on the role of the Central Statistical Office in publishing and circulating official information. Omam said that the proposed department should co-ordinate between the various government sides producing official information. He also called for setting up a planning committee for official information in which all government sides producing information should be represented.

The participants also listened to detailed reports about the experiments of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt in the field of official information. The symposium will come to a close today.

Garba lectures Kuwaiti diplomats

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): President of the United Nations General Assembly Joseph Garba, currently on a visit to the country, today lectured newly appointed Kuwaiti diplomats on the important issues tackled during the 44th session of the world organisation.

Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mohamed Abdalla Hassan who accompanied Garba told Kuna that the UN official spoke about the achievements under his chairmanship, indicating that his mission was facilitated by the spirit of détente between the two super powers.

However, he said, Garba regretted that the Middle East question had not so far benefited from the rapprochement between the big powers.

Abul Hassan quoted Garba as stressing the strategic importance of Afro-Arab co-operation, suggesting working out a mechanism to ensure continuity of dialogue.

Abul Hassan paid tribute to the ministry's initiative for benefiting from Garba's vast experience through his meeting with the new generation of Kuwaiti diplomats.

Lawyers received

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabab Al Salem Al Sabab received in audience at his office today board chairman of the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association Mishari Mohamed Al Osaibi, his deputy Abdalla Abdel Ghaouf, the association's treasurer Badr Saoud Al Badr and board members Abdulla Habib Al Salgh and Fahd Abdulla Al Khazam.

Italian shipping line to deploy 'Nuova Africa'

LLOYD Triestino are celebrating the presentation of the ship "Nuova Africa" built by the cantieri Castellammare di Stabia shipyard. This highly sophisticated new building presents an investment of over 70 billion lire (\$54 million) and has a capacity of 1555 TEUs, 300 of which refrigerated at different temperatures.

The company is going to deploy this ship on the Southern Africa route, to be operated within the SAECs (South Africa Europe Container Service) Consortium, formed together with LT by the French companies CGM and Chargeurs Reunis, the British P & OCL and EHL, the Dutch Nedlloyd, Belgian CMB, German Dal and South African, Safmarine. The sister ship, "Nuova Europa" presently under

construction in the Castellammare yard, to be delivered in early 1990, is also destined to sail on this trade route.

The ship is 192.5 metres long, 30.5 metres wide, 16 metres high, having a deadweight of 27,000 tonnes. The "Nuova Africa" is a self-sustained full container vessel meaning that the onboard equipment can be sufficient to load and discharge containers, making the ship particularly suited to serve ports lacking adequate facilities.

Once the "Nuova Europa" is also delivered, Lloyd Triestino will have a fleet of ten wholly owned ships, up from last year's five, plus the four chartered ships.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five new envoys

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad today received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Venezuela, Italy, Burundi, Switzerland and Ethiopia prior to presentation to His Highness the Amir.

Present at the ceremony were Foreign Ministry's Acting Undersecretary Faisal Al Salhi, Al Mutawa, Director of Protocol Ahmed Abdel Wahid Al Ayoub and deputy manager of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's office Faisal Al Mish'an.

Planning committee

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad will chair a meeting of the ministerial committee on Kuwait's master development plan tomorrow, planning undersecretary Abdel Hadi Mohamed Al Awadi said.

Awadi said the meeting would discuss plans forwarded by all the state's bodies for inclusion in the long-term plan stretching from fiscal 1990 to 2015.

He told Kuna that the ministry was working on the final stages of the Five-Year Plan for '90/1995.

Awadi said all plans would be considered by the committee prior to presentation to the council of ministers for final approval.

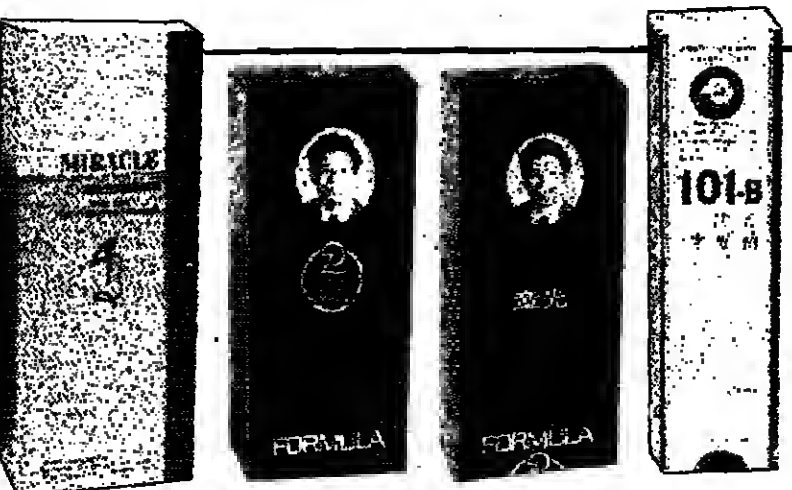
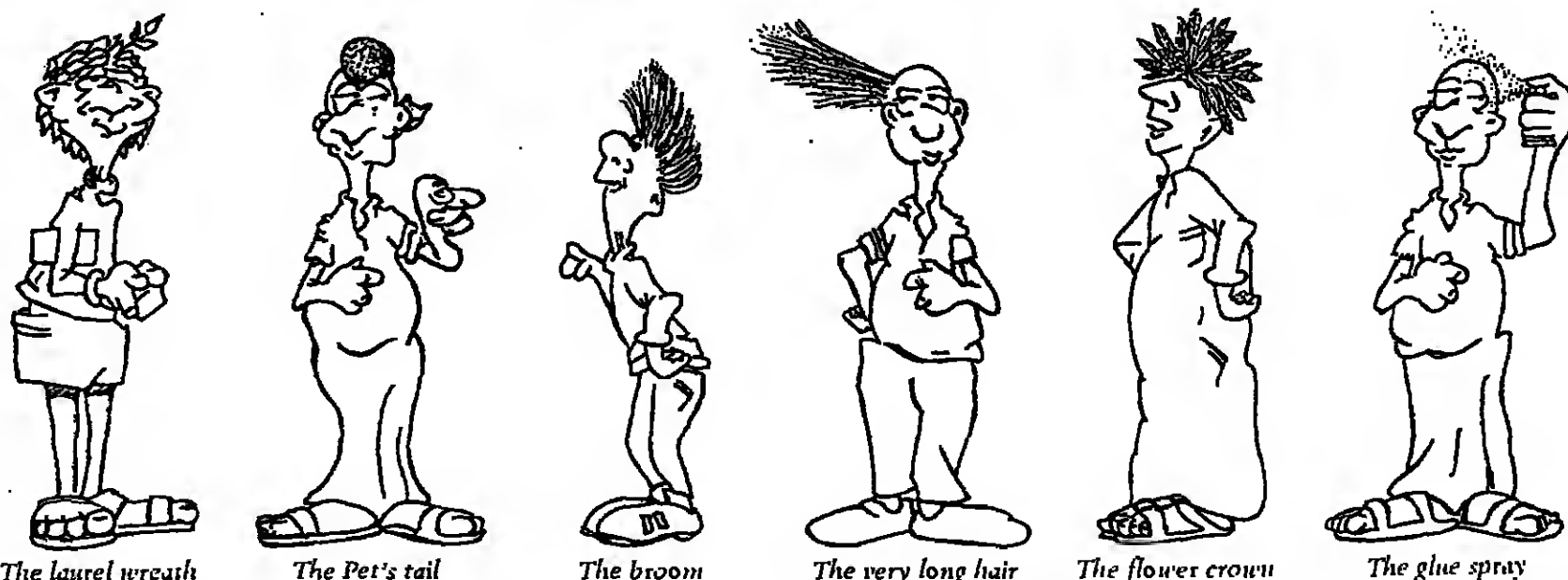
Plan follow-up appeal

THE assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Education for planning and development Dr Rasheed Al Hamad appealed to his departments to give more concern to the ministry's Five-Year-Plan that will be approved during the coming few days. He called on directors of these departments to distribute the plan over different sections of their departments to be used as a guide for them in their works. He called for regular follow-up reports to the planning department.

Hamad who met the directors, stressed on the importance to professionally develop the middle administration level through contributing in conferences, seminars and visits to advanced countries.

The directors praised the use of computers in the activities of the Education Ministry to facilitate work procedures. Directors are scheduled to meet with Hamad regularly on a monthly basis.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IMAGINATION has always had powers of resurrection that no science can match — Ingrid Bengis, US author (1944—)

Life in Beirut not rosy
Armenians can't respond to call

BEIRUT, (Reuters): "Who wants to go to Armenia?" said 19-year-old Hagop Makarian derisively, flexing his shoulders as if half expecting a rebuke from his elders.

"We've had a war in Beirut for 15 years so who would want to go there? What could we do for them? I trust no one. I'm taking my parents to the United States."

Despite traditionally strong ties to their homeland in Transcaucasia, Lebanon's Armenians have pressing problems of their own. They offer concern but little cash to Soviet Armenian victims of fierce ethnic clashes with Azerbaijanis.

Appeals for volunteers to aid Soviet Armenia, by fighting if necessary, find scant support in East Beirut's Bourj Hammoud district — after Los Angeles reputedly the largest concentration of Armenians outside the Soviet Union.

The days when Beirut-based Armenian gunmen forced the world to take notice of their people's concerns seem to be over.

The people of Bourj Hammoud, blaming the bloodshed on the Azeris and their supporters in Turkey and Iran, have fretted for their kith and kin but done little to help.

Raised

Beirut exiles raised a million dollar's worth of aid after an earthquake in Soviet Armenia in late 1988. A similar campaign for those displaced by fighting this year has barely begun.

"No concrete steps have been taken," said Hagop Pakradouni, spokesman for Lebanon's Dashnak Party and a member of the central executive board of the worldwide Armenian National Committee.

Branches of the Dashnak Party in France and elsewhere have been signing up volunteers to offer help and, if necessary, come to the defence of Armenians in Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Of the world's estimated seven million Armenians, 4.5 million are inside the Soviet Union, Pakradouni said. Some 100,000 Armenians live in Bourj Hammoud and 75,000 elsewhere in Lebanon.

Help

But in Beirut, efforts to help Soviet Armenians are so far restricted to collecting money. And business is unusually bad.

Six months of some of the worst shelling in Lebanon's civil war battered Bourj Hammoud last year. It is now being squeezed by an economic and political war between rival administrations.

"We have been frankly preoccupied with the Lebanese crisis. We feel our first priority now is to Lebanon. It is our main concern," said Pakradouni in the party headquarters, its doors protected against shells and bombs by a wall of concrete blocks.

Flooded

Armenians first flooded to Lebanon in 1915, escaping what Armenians say was the massacre of up to 1.5 million of their people in Turkey. Turkey says far fewer died and denies charges of genocide.

Maronite leaders in Beirut welcome the Christian Armenians and the support of the French colonial rulers offered them citizenship to boost Christian numbers.

The Armenians have guarded their identity closely through churches, schools and cultural centres. Four Armenian-language papers circulate in Beirut.

Pakradouni said he believed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could solve the problems by applying his reform principles and giving displaced land back to the Armenians.

"We believe Gorbachev will succeed and everybody should help him," he said. Told that many Armenians in Bourj Hammoud said they liked the Soviet leader, Pakradouni added: "We don't admire Gorbachev but we think he is better than ... his predecessors."

Much of the talk in Bourj Hammoud is about how people would act in the case of an "emergency," another mass killing of Armenians. But few believe it could happen while Gorbachev is in control.

"He's a great man," said camera shop owner Heik Tomasian. "Because he thinks democratically, it is going to be good."

Some Armenians say they believed Beirut could send up to 3,000 fighters if the Soviet community were in grave danger. But they said sending volunteers to fight might be counterproductive and encourage support for Azeris.

"My heart is Lebanese but my spirit is Armenian," said grocer George Sarkisian, 25, when asked how he felt about the fighting.

Stopped

In such times of crisis, he said, the Armenian political parties stopped squabbling. But there was no certain route for any militants from Beirut to reach their "brothers."

A Lebanese-based underground Armenian group warned Moscow this month it would become a target if it failed to prevent a massacre of Armenians.

But Armenian officials said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) had largely been inactive since 1984 after it and two other Armenian groups succeeded in winning international attention for their cause by a string of killings.

Officials said Armenians in Beirut had not yet requested any visas from the Soviet embassy to travel to Armenia in connection with the crisis.

"We care but what can we do?" said Nazareth Abu Naim in his baby clothes shop, empty of customers. "There is no way we can get anyone in from here ... like the Jews, we Armenians have usually had to express ourselves economically, not by fighting."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1531 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V appoints his sister, Mary of Hungary, as regent of the Netherlands.

1596 — Decrees of Folembray end war of the Catholic League.

1606 — British conspirator Guy Fawkes is executed.

1884 — Russians take Merv from Amir of Afghanistan.

1891 — Civil war begins in Chile.

1917 — Germany announces policy of unrestricted naval warfare in World War I.

1928 — Leon Trotsky is expelled from Soviet Union.

1943 — German troops surrender at Stalingrad in World War II.

1957 — Trans-Iranian pipeline, from Abadan to Tehran, is completed.

1958 — First US earth satellite, Explorer I, is launched at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

1962 — Foreign ministers of Organization of American States (OAS) vote to exclude Cuba from participating in the inter-American system.

1974 — Pan American Airways plane crashes on American Samoa, killing 95 of 101 people aboard.

1979 — China's first vice-premier Deng Xiaoping says after meetings with US president Jimmy Carter and congressional leaders that Moscow is world's "main hotbed of war."

1984 — Nine of world's poorest nations open talks in Lusaka, Zambia, on joint strategy to break traditional trade links with South Africa and to combat two years of devastating drought.

1988 — Thousands of Solidarity supporters march streets of Gdansk to protest price increases announced by Polish government.

1989 — Colombian airliner with 122 people aboard is hijacked from Colombia to Costa Rica, where hijacker turns himself over to authorities.



Honecker: behind bars

Voice of reform went unheeded
Honecker's life turns full circle

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): Erich Honecker, the East German leader who built the Berlin Wall to imprison his people, now finds himself behind bars facing treason charges for the second time in his life.

Honecker ruled unchallenged and with unbending Stalinitist rigour until October 1989 when he was removed in response to a popular reform movement and under pressure from a mass exodus to the West.

Within three weeks of his removal the wall, the most detested symbol of a divided Europe, came tumbling down 28 years after he had it built at the height of the cold war.

Praised by East Germans for improving their lives after becoming Communist Party chief in 1971, he eventually forfeited their respect for refusing to recognise the need for change.

Hailed

He was hailed for years in the official media for his struggle against the Nazis, having spent 10 years in Nazi prisons for "preparation of high treason."

Honecker stood down as party leader and head of state on October 18, 1989, officially for health reasons, and handed over to the man regarded as his likely successor, security chief Egon Krenz. Six weeks later he, too, was ousted.

Honecker, 77, was expelled from the party six weeks after his removal from power in a purge of the political elite and faced criminal investigation for corruption and misuse and now for treason.

He was placed briefly under house arrest at the Wandlitz Compound north of Berlin that was for 30 years the old guard's luxury enclave and is now a public sanatorium.

By then, with the wall open and his ideology in tatters, Honecker was a sick and broken man. Early this month he underwent surgery for a cancerous kidney tumour.

He had been regarded as one of the last of the old guard, distancing East Germany from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform drive yet supporting

Soviet foreign and disarmament policy.

He argued that change was unnecessary because he had launched his own reforms years previously.

As security chief, he supervised the building of the Berlin Wall, saying it was to halt Western subversion. In practice it was intended to stop East Germans going West.

When thousands of East Germans began flocking out through Hungary's newly open border in mid-1989, the exodus unleashed a popular reform

movement that Honecker was unable to contain.

For years after he took over as secretary-general of the East German Communist Party (SED), he enjoyed a reputation for dragging the country out of diplomatic isolation and ridding it of the image of Bonn's ugly sister.

In 1972 "Honi," as most East Germans called him, signed a landmark agreement with Bonn on ties between the two German states which opened the way for Western diplomatic recognition.

East Germany in a quandary

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): East Germany faces a prospect of collapse, just a few weeks after a peaceful revolution threw off the iron mantle of Stalinism.

The political system and economy is in turmoil, deprived of rigid communist structures that kept order for four decades — at a price the people finally refused to accept.

Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, a quietly-spoken and sober reformist, told Parliament on Monday that law and order was crumbling, the economy was in tatters and that the exodus of East German citizens to the West continued unabated.

"I don't think I have dramatised things here," he said to a Parliament chamber immersed in gloomy silence.

Their only hope, Modrow and most others believe, is in a newly formed "national unity" government that will guide the country to its

first free elections on March 18.

Modrow was due to visit Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on Tuesday and will undoubtedly detail the plight of East Germany, once a staunch Soviet ally and still the frontline of an increasingly dilapidated Warsaw Pact.

Anti-communist warning strikes have spread across the country. Around 100,000 people took to the streets of Leipzig on Monday night, calling for German reunification and pouring scorn on the discredited Communist Party.

Opposition groups and parties have blossomed, making so many demands that the nine-week old government cannot keep up. They want a more open economy, more things to spend their money on, a better environment — and they want them now.

After 40 years of enforced silence, everyone has a right to be heard. Political meetings are packed, inter-

minable and often heated.

Parliament allowed members of opposition groups to address the assembly for the first time on Monday.

With just six weeks until elections, most political forces are more concerned about preparing for the contest than actually running the country. The country's biggest reform movement, New Forum, is facing an internal policy split.

Parliament also heard a grim report on the state of the economy on Monday, hardly cheering news for foreign investors with the knowledge that the country badly needs to modernise its outdated and inefficient industries.

Many East Germans are lacking in even the most basic knowledge of Western-style economics.

Speakers in the Parliament underlined the enormous difficulties involved in transforming a closed economy.

Reformers challenge conservatives

MOSCOW, (AP): Progressives from the lower ranks of the Communist Party are mounting an open challenge in the powerful Central Committee, demanding a multi-party system and a virtual apology for decades of totalitarian rule.

For the first time in at least half a century, the party may be facing two competing political platforms.

Progressives, newly united by a programme and an organisation they call the "democratic platform," hope to force discussion of their proposals at a meeting of the Central Committee Feb 5-6, said Mikhail V. Malutin, one of the group's leaders.

The Politburo led by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, wary of the fall of communist parties in Eastern Europe and stung by sharpening criticism of its own failure to solve economic and ethnic crises, is proposing its own programme to the meeting.

The Politburo platform calls for "radical democratization of the party," according to a Central Committee staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity. Details are still secret, he said.

The Central Committee meeting comes at a time when some candidates for local elections are calling openly for a multi-party system. Even Gorbachev two weeks ago dropped his unconditional opposition.

In the Baltics, other parties are already legalized or tolerated. Lithuanian communists expect to lose complete control of their legislature in next month's election and be forced into the first coalition government in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Communist Party lost about 160,000 members in December when 80 per cent of the Lithuanian party

split off to form an independent Communist Party. Thousands more were reported to have quit in Azerbaijan this week in fury over Soviet troops' attempt to halt ethnic and nationalist violence.

The Central Committee staffer refused to reveal the decline in membership but said, "We want to stop this process. We need to reform the party quickly."

The "democratic platform" adopted by the reformers last weekend is much more blunt.

"If the healthy forces inside the Communist Party do not succeed in carrying out deep, rooted democratic transformation, the crisis inevitably will bring the party to political bankruptcy (as in Poland) or to the iron fist (as in China)," it said.

More than 100 Soviet journalists covered the reformers' meeting last weekend. Yet in a telling example of just how far they can go in reporting severe criticism of the party, almost none has reported on it.

But Radio Moscow did, saying it would be "written down in the history of the Soviet Communist Party as a day when an event of extraordinary importance took place."

"A large group of communists formed a platform within the party, and declared its intention to work towards democratizing the party ranks and introducing a multi-party political system," the radio said.

The platform was adopted at a conference of delegates from more than 100 communist clubs, representing 60,000 members from 78 cities. Also at the meeting were progressives from the inter-regional group of parliamentarians and reformers in the party bureaucracy itself, such as Vyacheslav N. Shustakovskiy, rector of the Higher School for Communists.

Art Buchwald

Teaching East bloc rules of democracy

I HAVE been inundated with queries lately from former Iron Curtain countries asking what they can expect now that they have thrown off the yoke of communism.

Here are some examples:

Question: If we become a democracy, does that mean we will no longer have corruption among our politicians?

Answer: That is correct. Democracies have a strict rule banning dishonesty in government. If a public servant does anything to break his oath, he is dealt with even more severely than if he lived in a totalitarian country — unless he has a good lawyer and can plea-bargain his way out.

Question: If the nouveaux libérés adopt democratic forms of government, does that mean we have to listen to all the speeches of the various political parties?

Answer: Citizens must pay a price for freedom of speech, and that price means they must hear out all the candidates. Besides doing that, free people are also expected to contribute money to political campaigns so their rights will be guaranteed.

Question: I have a friend who says that since we have toppled the communist power in East Germany, we will not be permitted to leave home without our American Express cards. True or false?

Answer: Your friend is right, but it doesn't necessarily have to be American Express — you can carry a Visa, Mastercard or even a Diner's Club card. This must be produced on demand when you walk into a shopping mall. The credit card is to the West what a Havana cigar is to Fidel Castro.

Question: Bulgaria, where I live, is for all intents and purposes a free nation. I do not have much money to spend. What is the first thing you would advise someone to buy who has just been liberated?

Answer: A radar detector. If you are going to beat the highway patrol at their own game in a democratic society, it is essential that you have a radar detector clipped in your sun visor. The most important thing for all citizens is to evade speed traps.

Harsh

Question: An East German father writes, "Under democracy, will I have discipline problems with my children?"

Answer: Only if they stay home. Most children in democratic countries disappear as soon as they are old enough to drive. They are not seen again until they have a financial problem which can solely be resolved by their parents.

Question: Under the harsh Romanian regime of Ceausescu, I failed to return a library book in

Bucharest because of the curfew. Before I knew it, I owed \$87 in fines. Am I still responsible for this amount now that Ceausescu has been shot?

Answer: People are responsible for overdue library books no matter who is in power. The only way to get out of paying is to go to the nearest Vatican embassy and ask for asylum.

Question: In the days before the overthrow of the hated Honecker regime, I burned the American flag and everyone applauded. Now they tell me that this is forbidden because we have a democratic government. What gives?

Answer: In a totalitarian state American-flag burning is encouraged. But you can't have people going around doing that in a free country because it would encourage everybody to take the law into their own hands.

Qualified

Question: We are expecting to hold elections in Bulgaria. How do we find a vice-president as qualified as Dan Quayle?

Answer: Nobody can get that lucky.

Question: If Poland elects a new president, will Johnny Carson make fun of us, the way he does of President Bush?

Answer: Only if they print his cue cards in Polish. Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Keralites humiliated

SIR: This refers to the 'friendly soccer' match played between Kerala XI and Goa XI on Friday at Fahaheel on the Republic Day of India.

It was an 'invited humiliation' to the Keralite Indians in Kuwait due to 'egoism' of a few. The match was dull and 'one-sided' due to the superb Goa side and very poor Kerala side. Keralites were humiliated with a score of 'nil' against 'five' at the time of final whistle.

The self-made 'general convenor' Mr Hassan Thikodi from Kerala with no experience and with no knowledge of soccer game, along with his close associate J.K. Parambil, a bogus soccer correspondent are responsible for such a defeat and humiliation. We learnt from reliable sources about their 'games' before the actual game. The 'clicks' and 'wire pulling' they played actually dispirited and disorganised the Kerala side, particularly the manager and players.

Every Indian soccer fan in Kuwait knows about the potentiality of Goans players. Their regular practice on Sour Grounds is well-known for decades. Keralites started football ventures from Fahaheel and spread on other areas quite recently.

In such a condition, fielding a weak team without any collective practice and team combination was more foolishness. Added with the 'dirty football politics' of the 'general convenor' and 'caucus' caused the severe damage to the Kerala team, though Keralites are not behind in the field of football in India at national level.

As a good lesson, one should at least understand that 'sorting out air tickets' and 'fielding a football team' is not the same.

Keralites in Kuwait will never forget this year's Republic Day of India. Three cheers to victorious Goans!

Rahman, Anandakrishnan, Ganeshan and friends, Salmiya.

Stop cheating

SIR: Further to Mr C.K. Satyraj's remarks on 20/1/90 in the letters to the editor column, I have the following points to add about the airlines operating between Kuwait and the Indian sub-continent.

1 — Whereas the people travelling between the areas are mainly labour class when compared to Europe and America. The airlines charge exorbitant fares which do not commensurate with the distances covered.

2 — Whereas the baggage allowance for passengers to Europe is irrespective of weight, it is 20 kg strictly charged even if a suit case exceeds 20 kg which is unfair by any means.

Gulf expatriates shouldn't be exploited by airlines and customs men in their own homelands because they don't have any stable lives nor can they be considered settled when life in the Gulf is that of uncertainty. Nowadays according to any religious beliefs, corporations cannot make profits when poor people are exploited.

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\$773m US arms for Egypt, Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Bush administration announced yesterday it planned to sell \$773 million in Apache attack helicopters and Hellfire missiles to Egypt and Israel.

The proposal went to Congress as some lawmakers were already questioning whether to continue high-level defence aid to Egypt and Israel at a time of shrinking budgets and Eastern European need for US financial help.

Pentagon officials, who asked not to be identified, said they expected the sales to become official in 30 days without a veto from Congress.

The Pentagon announcement said Egypt would buy 24 Apache attack helicopters, 492 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles, launchers, spare engines and other equipment for \$488 million.

Israel would buy a package including 19 Apaches and 539 Hellfires for \$285 million, the announcement said.

Although such sales carry a high price, their cost is often written off against foreign military credits to the two countries.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole recently suggested that the United States might have to reconsider its high level of

aid earmarked for nations such as Egypt, Israel and Pakistan in order to provide more help for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

The Pentagon also announced yesterday that the administration intended to sell 10 AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters and missiles to Pakistan for \$89 million.

Both the Apache and Cobra are designed to attack and destroy enemy tanks, and the Pentagon said the three countries needed the weapons in question.

"The Egyptian air force has a growing need for a more versatile and heavily armed helicopter gunship," the Defence

Department said, noting that neighbouring Arab states were obtaining increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

The United States defence budget for fiscal 1991 unveiled yesterday has cast doubt over two multi-billion dollar deals to sell tanks to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The decision to close the two production lines manufacturing the M1 Abrams tanks by early 1993 leaves both contracts up in the air, Defence experts said.

The Bush administration said last October it wanted to sell 315 M-1A2 tanks to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth up to \$6 billion.

Israeli move rapped

100,000 Soviet Jews to immigrate this year: Abu Sharif

LISBON, Jan 30, (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said yesterday Soviet Jews were being forced to go to Israel and condemned plans to resettle them on occupied Palestinian territory.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said the 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel this year had nowhere else to go because all other doors had been closed.

"Soviet Jews are being forced to go to Israel. We can say it is similar to detention," he told a news conference. "What (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir has in mind is further expansionism."

Shamir has called for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to accommodate the influx, which has alarmed the PLO and nearby Arab states. The group's executive committee was to discuss the issue in Tunis.

Sharif, in Lisbon on an European tour aimed at drumming up support, appealed to Europe to help unblock the Middle East peace process.

Washington is trying to get peace talks underway between Israel and a Palestinian delegation but its efforts have been stymied by wrangles over who should represent the Palestinians.

"It is up to European countries and the world community to take the necessary steps leading to eventual peace and the end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Sharif said.

Sharif accused Shamir of endangering regional stability and feeding the two-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"The intifada (uprising) is going on and will be stepped up as the Palestinians have no alternative but to increase the resistance," he said.

Sharif said that Western European countries that call for democracy and human rights in eastern Europe should not make an exception of the Palestinians.

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Shiite declares war on West

PARIS, Jan 30, (AP): The suspected leader of an extremist Muslim bombing ring that killed 13 people and wounded 250 in the French capital four years ago declared war on the West and was ejected from court just five minutes after his trial opened today.

Presiding judge Henri Malesgue ordered police to escort Fouad Ali Saleh to a cell as reading began of the charges against the 31-year-old Tunisian and 17 co-defendants.

"I am not Fouad Ali Saleh," said Saleh in a calm but loud voice that drowned out the judge. "My name is 'Death to the West.' You have killed Muslims... this is war."

Saleh and nine other defendants face charges of terrorist conspiracy, possession of illegal arms, trafficking in explosives and a variety of drug offences. Eight others are being tried in absentia. All face 10 to 20 years imprisonment if convicted, with another trial on murder charges planned later this year.

The suspects include Saleh's French wife Karima, three Tunisians, two Moroccans and three Lebanese.

Police sharpshooters manned rooftops near the Paris courthouse as officers in boats patrolled the Seine river, part of a larger security effort underway in the capital for weeks as authorities fear the trial might prompt fresh terrorist attacks.

Saleh and his co-defendants are accused of launching the wave of explosions that rocked the French capital from Dec 7, 1985 to Sept 8, 1986.

The bombers also attacked monuments, with a blast ripping through the post office of the 17th century Paris City Hall. Explosives experts defused another bomb at the Eiffel Tower.

A group calling itself the Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners claimed responsibility for the attacks.

French officials believe members of the gang were recruited and directed by Saleh, who took his orders from Hezbollah, an Iran-backed group of extremist Shiite Muslims based in Lebanon.

The charges read yesterday concern attempts by the gang and Beirut-based members of Hezbollah to rebuild their stock of explosives between September 1986 and April 1987.



Israel tests MIG-23

An Israeli Air Force pilot test flew a Soviet-made MIG-23 fighter jet on Monday in his first flight since a Syrian pilot defected with it to Israel last October.

The pilot flew the jet for about 50 minutes and performed a series of manoeuvres, including a fly-over of Jerusalem. The MIG-23 was escorted by an F-15 and an F-16, both US-made jets.

The pilot told reporters after the flight that "we are investigating the Syrians to see what they can do and how we can work against them."

The Israeli pilot's name could not be revealed under briefing rules.

When the jet was put on display on Monday, it carried its original camouflage colours.

Hirawi consolidating

Final touches to security plan

BEIRUT, Jan 30, (Agencies): Lebanese President Elias Hrawi forged ahead today with efforts to expand his power, despite the withdrawal of a leading Christian minister and threats from Christian hardliner Michel Aoun.

Hirawi met his cabinet to put the final touches to a plan to consolidate his authority, starting by replacing Syrian troops in Muslim West Beirut with Lebanese security forces, political sources said.

Just before the meeting at Hirawi's office ended, two rocket-propelled grenades exploded about 50 metres (yards) away over Syrian Army officers in a hotel, security sources and witnesses said. There were no casualties.

On the Green Line dividing Beirut, clashes with rocket-propelled grenades erupted between General Aoun's troops and Muslim militiamen, security sources said.

A team of senior Lebanese and Syrian Army officers told militia leaders in West Beirut about the security plan agreed by Hirawi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last week.

A pro-Syrian security source said the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) militia promised to co-operate by pulling out its men from most areas of West Beirut.

The plan for 1,000 Lebanese soldiers and policemen to replace Syrian troops at positions in West Beirut excludes Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Some of the 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon are thought to be held in the suburbs by members of Hezbollah, which has denied any links with hostage-taking.

Under the plan, soldiers loyal to Hirawi would take over from militiamen on the Green Line. Syrian troops would remain on the edges of the city and around the Christian enclave held by Aoun.

Hirawi's cabinet was weakened on Monday by the decision of the leader of the largest Christian party, the Falange, not to take up his job of posts and telecommunications minister.

George Saadeh's right-wing Falange said he would not join the government because the cabinet had failed to become a national unity government, as stipulated in an Arab-sponsored plan to end more than 14 years of civil war.

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Iraq-France talks on defence co-operation

BAGHDAD, Jan 30, (AP): French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement left Baghdad yesterday after a three-day visit to Iraq for talks on military co-operation, officials said.

Chevenement met with Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan, only hours before flying back home.

The official Iraqi News Agency said Ramadan and Chevenement discussed bilateral relations and co-operation, but did not further elaborate.

The French minister met Sunday with President Saddam Hussein and INA said they discussed "means of enhancing bilateral co-operation."

Chevenement, accompanied by senior army officers and Foreign Ministry officials, held a series of meetings with high-ranking Iraqi officials, including Hussein Kamel, the minister of industry and military industrialisation.

INA said Kamel, who is leading Iraq's effort to build an advanced defence industry, expressed Baghdad's desire to co-operate with French companies in implementing a number of industrial projects.

France was one of Iraq's main arm suppliers during the 8-year war with Iran.

Chevenement was on his first visit since the war with Iran was halted by a United Nations-mediated ceasefire in 1988.

With talks on a formal peace treaty stalled, both sides have been spending billions to rearm.

A delegation from the French defence firm Matra also visited Baghdad earlier this month to discuss co-operation with the Iraqi company which manufactures missiles, satellites and electronic warfare systems.

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Algeria approves 2 more parties

ALGIERS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Algeria has legalised two more opposition political parties, bringing to 19 the number approved since sweeping liberalisation last year.

The Algerian news agency APS said yesterday the Islamic Democratic Party of Arab Unity and the Popular Association for Unity and Action had been approved by the Interior Ministry.

The first party has said it will fight for the creation of a single Arab state that applies Islamic law.

APS said two parties are still awaiting approval — the Trotskyist Socialist Workers' Organisation and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria of former President Ahmed Ben Bella.

The 19 opposition parties and the ruling National Liberation Front are due to contest the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962 later this year.

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Investigate plight of refugees, Iran asks UN

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Iran yesterday asked the United Nations to investigate the plight of more than 80,000 Iranians it said were displaced when Iraq occupied Iranian territory during the eight-year-long Gulf war.

Ambassador Kamal Kharazi, during a meeting with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, presented a report on the displaced Iranians he said had been forced to leave for neighbouring towns and villages, an Iranian spokesman said.

According to the ambassador, a total of 84,751 were forced to leave their homes when Iraq occupied about 1,000 square miles (2,600 sq. km) along the border between the two countries.

Another 1.4 million Iranians feel threatened because they live close to the occupied area, the ambassador was reported as saying.

Iran has rarely mentioned the displaced persons issue in its demand that Iraq withdraw from its territory before the estimated 10,000 prisoners of war held by both sides are released.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein earlier this month suggested there be alternate meetings in Tehran and Baghdad by representatives of both countries under UN supervision to set a time-table for a peace treaty to be put into effect.

The discussions should be aimed at both sides agreeing on how to interpret a UN Security Council resolution that so far has brought about a ceasefire in the Gulf war but no peace treaty.

At the same time, Hussein said, both countries should exchange wounded and sick prisoners of war and open their borders to enable people to visit holy shrines.



Israeli atrocity

The wife of Abdullah Al Gasrawy gestures as she stands with her children amid the rubble of their home demolished by the Israeli army for being constructed without a permit. (Reuters wirephoto)

The wife of Abdullah Al Gasrawy gestures as she stands with her children amid the rubble of their home demolished by the Israeli army for being constructed without a permit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Turkey water cut hits crops: Syria

DAMASCUS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Syria blamed Turkey today for electricity cuts and water shortages across the country, saying they were the result of Ankara's decision to cut the flow of the Euphrates river.

In the first official Syrian reaction since Turkey on January 13 changed the course of the Euphrates for 30 days to fill a giant dam, an official told Reuters all cities were suffering.

Half way through the planned cut-off, the Irrigation Ministry official said farmers had already lost winter crops and thousands of fish had died.

He termed Ankara's action unnecessary and likely to cause enmity between the people of both countries.

"The cut had a psychological effect on the Syrian people who depend in their daily lives on the river's waters."

"The cut might lead to a state

of enmity on the popular level, something which both the Syrian and Turkish governments exerted big efforts in recent years to remove."

He said Turkey could easily have avoided cutting water to Syria and Iraq in other ways, such as operating the Karakaya dam, some 40 miles (60 km) upstream of the Ataturk dam.

Listing the impact of Syria, the official said:

- Only one of eight huge hydro-electric turbines at the Euphrates dam which provide 60 per cent of the country's electricity consumption was now working. This had resulted in rationing electricity supplies in all cities including the capital Damascus.
- All farmers who used to pump water from the river to irrigate thousands of acres were getting no water. They had lost their winter crops.

Merger to boost stability: Saleh

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 30, (Reuters): The unification of North and South Yemen, expected late this year after both countries ratify a draft constitution, will add to the stability of the Arabian peninsula, North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh said yesterday.

Saleh said the discovery of oil along the border of the two countries has encouraged their merger, which is expected to occur on November 30.

2 hurt in Cairo Police ambushed

CAIRO, Jan 30, (Reuters): Suspected Muslim fundamentalists injured a senior policeman and his driver in Cairo today when they ambushed his car with stones and molotov cocktails.

Colonel Rifai El Shafa'i and his driver were slightly injured when the group of bearded men shattered the windshield with stones and tossed homemade firebombs at the car, they said.

The sources said the attackers had apparently been watching Shafa'i's movements for some time and knew his route to work in the suburb of Ein-Shams.

Protest in London: Opponents of the Iranian government and relatives of jailed or executed dissidents demonstrated outside the London office of the United Nations on Tuesday to protest against alleged human rights abuses in Iran. (Reuters)

Syria wants Arab summit: Syria on Tuesday urged Arab heads of state to hold a summit to discuss what it called Israeli expansionism and other issues.

"We believe the convening of an Arab summit to discuss the basic, crucial issues facing the Arab nation is a vital, popular demand," Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara told reporters in Amman. (Reuters)

UN investigator returns: UN investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl returned on Tuesday from a 9-day visit to Iran on behalf of the UN commission on human rights.

UN officials said Galindo Pohl, of El Salvador, would report to the commission before it concludes its current annual session on March 9. (UPI)

US protests to Cyprus: The US State Department protested on Monday to Cyprus over its government's allowing a Kurdish "terrorist" organisation to hold a news conference last week in Nicosia. (UPI)

Sex crimes Gets the boot

TEHRAN, Jan 30, (Reuters): Iran has ordered out a Turkish diplomat for membership of a gang that lured women to parties and then raped them, an Iranian newspaper reported today.

It quoted the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee in West Azerbaijan province as saying the diplomat, based in Urmieh near the Turkish border, was among 35 members of a recently uncovered "corruption and prostitution gang."

"The gang seduced mostly non-local girls and women, took them to decadent parties and corrupted and raped them," the commander said.

Policeman shot dead: A Turkish traffic policeman, photographed by local newspapers brandishing a gun during a violent 1989 May Day protest, was shot dead outside his Istanbul home on Tuesday, the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Rebels kill 12: The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army killed 12 young men from the southern region of western Equatoria for refusing to join their ranks, a daily official paper reported. (AP)

Tunisian president pledges \$445 million relief for flood victims

TUNIS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, condemning violent protests by flood victims, pledged 400 million dinars (\$445 million) for relief work.

In a speech broadcast late on Monday, Ben Ali said he sympathised with people who had to wait several days before help arrived but that did not justify attacks on government buildings in two towns in flood-hit regions.

Crowds set fire to cars and threw stones at the headquarters of regional governments in the central town of Sidi Bouzid and the southwestern town of Nefta last

week in protest at the slow pace of relief operations.

Thirty people and 21,000 livestock were killed and 38,000 houses and 307 schools damaged in the flooding caused by torrential rain that began on Jan 21.

Ben Ali said disruption to transport and communications caused by the floods had stopped relief arriving quickly.

"Although one can understand the psychological state which prevailed, that in no way justifies the behaviour of certain elements who, with no sense of patriotism, exploited the situation to incite unrest and attack public property," he said.

An official statement initially blamed Muslim militants for the unrest in Sidi Bouzid, but local residents said the militants were a minority among the protesters. Ben Ali later replaced the local governor.

The president said short-term repairs to houses, farms, schools, roads, bridges and railways would cost 200 million dinars (\$223 million). People whose homes had been damaged would start receiving compensation within three weeks.

Some of the rest of the total of 400 million dinars of relief money would be spent on preventing future floods, including building dams, especially around five flood-prone towns in the south and centre of the country.

Fifty million dinars (\$55 million) of the total money would be found by redistributing the 1990 budget and another 50 million from donations.

The government would raise the balance of 300 million dinars (\$335 million) by other methods, Ben Ali said.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia last week donated \$50 million for relief operations. Other donations have come from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the UN disaster relief organisation.



The New Indian School's third annual 'Open Day'

The New Indian School held its third annual "Open Day" last week. The first subject room that attracted the visitors was the computer centre. Parents were treated to a number of Computer Games which demanded skill and precision.

The commerce and economics section was a display of charts and models which were self-explanatory. The principles of economics were well underlined by a series of charts, cartoons and comics.

The literary section comprising English, Arabic, French and Hindi was spruced up with eye catching charts, aphorisms pictorial language charts, short stories and poems painstakingly written by budding artists and poets.

In geography, History and Kuwait Social Studies, sections were attractive accompanied with charts and models.

The Islamic studies section contained many

beautiful handicrafts and models of the Islamic World. It also depicted many beautiful charts of the famous sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

The primary section displayed their beautiful models and colourful paintings everybody was impressed by what two little hands could produce. A novel feature of this year's Open Day was the sports section and the arts section which boasted of pictures of International sportsman and sports women in action.

The arts section displayed a variety of sketches and paintings. Parents and visitors left the school with a deep sense of satisfaction.

The work done by the primary section is beyond imagination. The credit goes to the kids and the teachers for the pain they took to make it successful and inculcating on creative spirit in children under the able guidance of the primary teachers.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Ghoraha Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 5)
- 11.30 Al Waad: Berium weekly serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Al Abadi, Sahar Sami and Yousif Al Jamal
- 12.25 News summary
- 12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
- 12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial (part 2)
- 5.15 Spencer: Arabic children's serial (part 4)
- 5.45 Night chemists, air-lines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq: historical serial (part 11)
- 7.00 Variety
- 7.10 Popular Arts: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Matar
- 7.45 Monuments and Islamic Arts: cultural programme (part 5)
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Television network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahmoun Al Najjar
- 10.15 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 9)
- 11.15 Al Batal: Arabic feature film, starring Shadya, Taheya Karyouka, Ismael Yassen, and Zeenat Sudqi
- 12.45 News summary
- 12.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Danger Bay: "Racing Against Time." A friend of Nicole finds her horse dragged on the eve of a major race. Grant exposes the culprit.
- 7.00 International Outdoors: "Ski-Diving." 4 Pirates of The High Seas. Action-packed out-door, live-action adventures that circle the globe, captivating the universal family audience...
- 7.30 Growing Pains: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Jason's mother returns from her journey to Mexico with unexpected surprise.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Top of the Hill: "At Risk". The water in Tom Bill's area is polluted by a company produces insecticides. He attempts to compensate affected families, and to protect the area from pollution.
- 9.30 The Science Edition: Advanced technology introduced in rescue operations. Importance of advanced technology in musical instruments.
- 10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "The colour purple". Starring: Dany Clover, Adolf Cesar
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.17 am
Zohr	12.01 pm
Asr	3.04 pm
Maghreb	5.25 pm
Isha	6.44 pm



Introducing Christian Breton

RECENTLY, Supply & Building Co. held a dinner party at Le Meridien Hotel to launch "Christian Breton, Paris' beauty products. Omar Bakir, President of S & B gave a welcoming speech: Ladies and gentlemen: Back in 1978, Christian Breton initiated an indepth study into the makeup and treatment products in the market, and noted that they fell largely under two categories:

Firstly: quality products, which were quite expensive. Secondly: inexpensive products, but of mediocre quality and performance. Upon further studies, Breton concluded that the quality products although far superior in quality did not justify the high selling price that they commanded. Hence, he decided to market a line superior in quality and design, every ingredient the best to be found at acceptable prices.

Within seven years, following this policy, Breton became the twelfth largest company in France. Why indeed should the lady pay up to four and a half dinars for lipstick when she can get complete satisfaction with a lipstick of one dinar nine hundred fill?

Why should she pay seven and a half dinars for a cleaner, when she can buy an equivalent or even superior products for two? But first she must be satisfied that this is not just sales talk — that it is a fact, tried and found true by her and no one else. And we are here to ask her to try. To ask you ladies to try. We feel certain that you will soon count as yet another Christian Breton satisfied customer.



Dr Swatch is in Town!!

Dr Swatch is now polishing the glass of your Swatch watch to make it look like new for just KD 1. This entitles you for a free guard or band of your choice.

Dr Swatch is now seeing clients at Jashanmal showroom — Fahed Al Salem Street from Jan 27 to Feb 8, '90. Hurry up ... Let Dr Swatch check your watch.

ON THE SCREEN

- Al Andalus: Arabic film
- Sahmiah: Hall Booked
- Al Hamra: Nowhere to Hide
- Drive In: Cocktail
- Al Firdous: Mera Farz
- Fakheel: Arabic film
- Al Jahra: Rage of Ninja
- Granada: Hall Booked
- Salamkhat: To Burn the Sun
- Jeeb: D. O. A.
- Ahmad Drive-In: Arabic film

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

SOCIAL

...Like a Hurricane!!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Saez Aur Aawaz
SAAZ Aur Aawaz presents hit songs of yesteryears entitled "Bhule Bisle Geet" at the Indian Arts Circle on Friday Feb 2, at 6.00 pm. Special offer for families. For details contact 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm. Win a lucky draw prize of gold or a camera.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".
Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Japan film festival

Today's film is "My soul My soul" (1979). It is the final film, directed by Keisuke Kinoshita.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsant Astanti Dast" Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)

IN the arena of entertainment 'The Entertainers' welcomes all to witness their 'Carnival Nite' at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival".

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Ladies International League
YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxime. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

Daniella Fastelabon

Daniella celebrates "Fastelabon" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Mariamne Tel: 3710215 ext. 29 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Cinema, Hawalli. On Friday, Feb 2 the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm, Friday throughout the day and during the following week at the box office.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Spring festival
Bengali Cultural Society is organising a "Spring Festival" at the Mousetrap Theatre, Jahriya on Thursday, 1st February 1990. Parents are requested to bring their children, who are participating in various competitions, at 7 pm sharp.

Rage Sharq
INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raqs Sharq, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

SPORTS

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Ladies. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten — 2402698 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds

to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

Coaching classes

COACHING classes for new recruits, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees Association, Kuwait (IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may contact D'Souza, Tel: 2402631-2; or Anthony Fernandes, Tel: 2445729/2431674 or any members of the committee at the Sour Ground in person for any further information.

Qualified members of any Indian states' referees' associations and/or of Asian/European referees associations are welcome to join the association as members.

Ahmed Kart racing
RACING this week is for the Honda Challenge Cup sponsored by Mutawa Al Kazzi Company and is a handicap meeting. Drivers will be racing against their own handicap which is based on their performance so far this season. Racing starts at 1.30 pm. Snack bar for food and drinks and rental art available for hire after the races.

Bhutto Cup
KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052S. Rizvi.

Tivim Centre
"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Cassimiro.

Now at the MBH Sports Centre
Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah.

"Jazzercise/Aerobics/Slaying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI COFFEE SHOP: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner at the end of the day. Choose from our lavish international buffet (lunch KD5.500 and dinner KD5.750) and then sit back n enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet (KD2.500) you can always work off those excess calories at the Holiday Inn fitness centre.

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00, Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor. Mon-Wed 6, Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm — all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Kuwait
Shaab Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Sharq Pharmacy
Safat Souk
Salmiya
Al Bader Pharmacy

Blajaz Street
Fakheel
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road
Kheitan
Kheitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.

Rigget
Rigget Pharmacy
Bader Al Salem Bldg.

Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society

مكتبة الامم

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japan Week aims to show genuine image

Envoy hopes to expand trade links

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A PROFILE of Japanese People, is the title of the Japan Week 1990 to be held in Kuwait from Feb 2-6, under the auspices of the Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah.

Speaking to newsmen during a press conference yesterday, the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Tsuyoshi Kurokawa, said that the Japan Week aims at showing the genuine image of Japan.

Kurokawa praised economic and political relations between Kuwait and Japan. He added that people here have enough information on Japan, and in general are quite well-informed

about what is happening in Japan through the local media.

Japan in the past 150 years was totally unknown to the world as it basically was an agricultural society and was far cry from the technological giant it is today. But after Japan opened its doors to the world, it tried to introduce the fruit of modern civilisation harmoniously in combination with its tradition and culture.

About the Japan Week 1990 in Kuwait, the ambassador said that it focuses on four areas. The first is to introduce traditional culture of Japan including folk dances, tea ceremony demonstration, flower arrangements and cooking.

Second is related to the modern aspect of Japan through holding investment and banking seminars to get the recent information on Japanese trends of business, current trends of Japanese and world economy. An exhibition of the most recent electronic products, toys, books and cars will also be added to the insight on Japan. Third is about Japanese exhibition of traditional old and new craftsmanship. Old and new Japanese films will also be shown in co-ordination with Kuwait Cinema Club.

He added that the last area is new and is realised through the Kuwaiti and Japanese Friendship Society. The international understanding is mutual understanding. In co-ordination with the society some aspects of the



Tsuyoshi Kurokawa
Kuwaiti life will be presented to the Japanese community here.

Replying to a question on encouraging tourism to Japan, the official admitted that tourism in Japan is still underdeveloped partly due to the unfavourable exchange rate between the yen and other main currencies.

He added that they have been observing the rapid development of new style of tourism in the last few years that feature not only exclusive hotels but also hotels of reasonable prices along with the expansion of transportation networks. He said that some endeavours are going on to attract more tourists from the region.

Regarding Kuwait — Japanese economic relations, Kurokawa said that the volume of trade between the two countries in

last year from January to October was \$2.3 billion. There is a possibility to enlarge the volume of trade. So far neither Japan nor Kuwait governments see the necessity of making specific arrangements in the field of economic exchange and trade. The free trade and market system in Japan tries not to intervene into the activities of Japanese private companies, but to give them a free hand.

According to the ambitious Kuwait Five-Year Plan there are proposals for heightened economic activities here in Kuwait and hoped that trade activities between Kuwait and Japan would be expanded in the coming years.

Replying to a question about

the possibility of having a Kuwaiti Week in Japan, the official said in 1986 the GCC countries jointly hosted a week-long festival in Japan. Japan is ready to offer help in co-ordination with the Japan-Kuwait Society in Tokyo and Arab Friendship Society in Tokyo to introduce Kuwait to the Japanese.

About introducing more specialised weeks of modern industry and technology in Kuwait, he said that it is very difficult to implement such projects within a short span of time. However, such projects were organised to USA and Europe, also he did not exclude the possibility of having such projects in the future.

Strikes result in idle oil wells

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Reuters): Protest strikes against the presence of Soviet troops in Baku, capital of the oil-rich Republic of Azerbaijan, have halted production from hundreds of oil wells. TASS news agency reported today.

It said that at one of the most important of the Caspian Sea oil fields, "26 Baku Commissars" some 650 pumps — about one-third of the field's wells — were not working.

"They need repairs and equipment replacements. At least three months of intensive work are needed to put them back into service," TASS quoted K. Kerimov, administrative head of the oilfield, as saying of the idle wells.

In the past 10 days, the 26 Baku Commissars field fell behind schedule by more than 10,000 tonnes of oil, the report said. It did not say what the target production had been.

Other oilfields affected by the unrest were Kirovneft and Azizbekovneft, TASS said. The situation is being discussed in work collectives, which are jointly looking for ways out of the dramatic situation.

The Soviet army was sent to Baku on January 20 in what the Kremlin said was an attempt to stop ethnic clashes and put down an Azeri nationalist revolt. Since then, most of Baku's population has refused to go to work to protest.

Azerbaijan provides about five per cent of Soviet oil production. The flow from offshore wells in the Caspian Sea accounts for about 250,000 barrels per day.

But the area also accounts for 60 per cent of oil field equipment manufactured in the Soviet Union, meaning strikes there can hurt oil production nationwide.

The strikes released by TASS were the first details provided by the Soviet media on how the transcaucasian unrest is affecting the oil industry.

EEC consumer price index up

LUXEMBOURG, Jan 30, (AP): Consumer prices in the 12-nation European Economic Community rose 0.3 per cent in December 1989 from the previous month, the EEC's statistical service Eurostat said in a statement today.

The year-to-year inflation rate stood at 5.4 per cent, one percentage point higher than a rate of 4.4 per cent in December, 1988. Year-to-year inflation was higher in all EEC nations except Portugal, Eurostat said.

By comparison, the US year-to-year inflation rate stood 4.6 per cent in December while Japan's inflation rate was 2.6 per cent, the statement said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 30, (Reuters): Speculation that Prime Minister Bob Hawke would announce a general election date boosted the market in late trading. The All Ordinaries index closed at 1,695.7, up 11.2.

TOKYO: A relatively firm yen, stabilised bond prices and a feeling that the market has bottomed out boosted shares broadly at the close. But prices were off their peaks and trade was listless. The Nikkei index closed at 37,215, up 415.9.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed easier on mild overseas selling but trading remained tight after the long Lunar New Year holiday. The Hang Seng index fell 8.06 to 2,760.80.

SINGAPORE: Share prices rose over a broad front on bargain-busting and short-covering activity after active trading. The Straits Times index rose 15.15 to 701.08.

Bahrain, US firm sign crude contract

Harken to carry out 3-year exploration

BAHRAIN, Jan 30, (Reuters): Bahrain signed a contract with the US firm Harken Petroleum today to drill for oil and gas off its northern coast, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted Industry and Development Minister Yousef Shirawi as saying.

Shirawi said Harken, a Texas-based "wildcat" firm, would carry out a three-year exploration programme off the islands of Muharraq and Umm Nasan and on the Coral Reef of Fasht Al Jarim.

If drilling was successful, profits would be shared between Harken and the Bahrain National Petroleum Company for 35 years, Shirawi said. The report gave no further details.

Wildcat wells are drilled with little seismic information about underlying rock formations.

Bahrain produces about 45,000 barrels per day (bpd) from dwindling oil reserves which are expected to run out by the turn of the century. It buys

most of the oil for its 250,000 bpd refinery from Saudi Arabia.

It also produces about 700 million cubic feet a day of gas from estimated reserves of about 10,000 billion cubic feet.

No-opec oil producing countries are planning a meeting of experts with Opec in March, a senior Omani oil official said today.

"We are in touch with (the) Opec secretariat to have a meeting in March either before or after Opec's market monitoring committee meeting," Rashid Al Barwani, director of marketing at Oman's Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He said no date or venue has been set yet.

Opec's market monitoring committee will meet in Vienna on March 15 and all 13 members of Opec are expected to attend.

The non-Opec group comprises Oman, Egypt, Angola, Malaysia, China, Mexico,

Brunei, Norway, North Yemen, the Soviet Union, Colombia, the states of Texas and Alaska and Canada's Alberta province. Some of the states attend the meetings as observers. Non-Opec experts met last October in Kuala Lumpur and accepted an invitation by Opec secretary general Suharto for a meeting in early 1990.

In February 1989, seven non-Opec producers — Oman, Mexico, Angola, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, China and Egypt — agreed to cut exports by five per cent in the second quarter of 1989 to support Opec's efforts to boost market prices.

Meanwhile, a key Opec official said today that the world's industrial nations should have a fear of the price increases and long gas lines of the 1970s being repeated because the oil-consuming and producing nations need each other.

"It is worth reminding those who would raise again the spec-

tre of oil import dependency in the industrial world that the rapid oil price adjustments of 1973 and 1979 could never be repeated given the growing material interdependence," said Suharto.

Subroto, formerly Indonesia's Oil and Energy Minister, made his statement in the foreword to Opec's annual report issued in Viecoo and reported by the official Opec News Agency.

The 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumps more than one-third of the world's crude oil and was responsible for crude prices soaring nearly tenfold in the 1970 by holding back on production.

"As a consequence of the industrial nations developing alternative fuels and taking measures to conserve fuel, oil prices collapsed in 1986.

The organisation has since acted to keep crude prices low enough to maintain its share of the world market.

Refinery to cost \$1.2b Iran signs oil refinery contract

NICOSIA, Jan 30, (Reuters): Iran has signed a contract with a consortium of Italian and Japanese firms to build a \$1.2-billion oil refinery at the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas. Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh said today.

Iranian television said the contract for the refinery, due to come on stream by March 1994 to process 220,000 barrels per day (bpd) of heavy crude oil and 12,000 bpd of liquids from the nearby Sarkhoon Gas Complex, was signed last night.

Azagadeh said the refinery would cost \$1.2 billion. He did not name any of the foreign firms involved nor make clear how much the contract with the consortium was worth.

The minister said on the television that Iranian engineers were involved in drawing up the project and would be concerned in building the refinery.

The plant would become Iran's eighth oil refinery

and part of its output would be exported, he said. It would become operational after another refinery now being built in Arak in central Iran.

The Bandar Abbas plant would be environmentally friendly and use advanced technology, the minister said.

Azagadeh said one-fifth of the two million man-hours needed in drawing up the refinery project and four-fifth of the 40 million man-hours for its installation would be provided by Iranian engineers and workers.

Contracts had been made with Iraq's heavy industries ministry to manufacture 25,000 tonnes of the plant's 130,000 tonnes of machinery, the minister added.

In another development a prominent United Arab Emirates official today asserted that all indications show that oil is still and will remain the essential and principal source of energy in the world.

Bonn economist sees strong growth

COPENHAGEN, Jan 30, (Reuters): The chief economist of West Germany's biggest bank, Deutsche Bank, said today he expected West German economic growth to stay ahead of its competitors, helped by the flow of East German immigrants.

Norbert Walter also told a business conference on East Europe in the 1990s that East Germany might have to seek a form of economic reunification with West Germany as early as this year.

"The West German economy will on average grow at least one percentage point faster in the first half of the 1990s than in the 1980s, and even this may be at the low end of what is probable," Walter said, without giving a precise forecast.

All forecasts of West Germany growth made in 1988 and 1989 were on the low side, he said. Forecasts for growth of gross national product this year range from 3.5 to four per cent.

A major element was the influx of immigrants from East Germany, 350,000 last year and some 2,000 a day so far in

1990, a rate he predicted would be maintained at least until summer.

The influx of young, skilled, highly motivated people created added demand for housing, consumer goods, gave new flexibility to an increasingly immobile workforce and increased the country's productive potential, Walter said.

Despite fears in West Germany of greater competition for blue collar jobs, unemployment had actually fallen by some 200,000 in the past year, he said. In economic terms "I feel Germany has a very good chance to be the locomotive for Europe at large in the coming years," Walter added.

Whoever won the East German elections in March, there was a risk of a continuing high level of emigration, and East Germany might collapse, forcing its government to seek reunification with Bonn, Walter said.

"There might be no alternative for any East German government but to ask for economic and currency union with West Germany," he said. "I believe this could happen as early as this year," he added.

Dollar closes mostly higher

Gold mixed

LONDON, Jan 30, (UPI): The dollar closed mostly higher against the major European currencies today. Gold was mixed.

The dollar closed higher in Frankfurt at 1.6780 German marks against Monday's close at 1.6760, and also was higher in Zurich at 1.4880 Swiss francs against 1.4825. In Paris at 5.7000 French francs against 5.6820 and in Milan at 1.248.50 lire against 1.244.05.

The dollar closed unchanged in Brussels at 35.05 Belgian francs. In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6810 against \$1.6795 at Monday's close.

In Zurich, gold closed lower at \$417.50 per ounce against \$418.50 per ounce, but was higher in London at \$419 per ounce against \$418.75 per ounce at Monday's close.

Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$5.25 per ounce, but was lower in London at \$5.23 per ounce against \$5.24 per ounce.

The US dollar moved higher against the Japanese yen, while the key index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange inched up.

The index, a 299.63 point-winner the previous day, opened higher but gradually erased its early gains as the Japanese government bond prices and the yen weakened, said Toshiaki Yui.

Sony's announcement that it will issue 400 billion yen (\$2.8 billion) worth of equities in the Japanese stock market to raise its capital discouraged market players who worried the increase in the number of shares might lower share prices, he said.

Oil talks

Saudi Arabia's Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer (left) chats with Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga at the start of talks at the ministry. The two agreed to start exchanges of high-level officials several times annually to deepen relations, a ministry official said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Light trading

Oil prices float upward

NEW YORK, Jan 30, (UPI): Oil prices rose slightly in light trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday in the absence of any news to spur traders to either buy or sell.

In the face of unseasonably warm temperatures that have driven prices down in recent weeks, home heating oil for February delivery nevertheless gained 1.51 cents to finish the day on the Merc at 61.11 cents a gallon.

February unleaded gasoline rose 0.70 cent to 62.82 cents a gallon.

On the New York harbour cash market, heating oil rose 1.15 cents to 61.25 cents a gallon and gasoline moved up 0.30 cent to 62.95 cents a gallon.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for March delivery settled at \$22.80 a barrel on the Merc, up 24 cents.

WTI gained 30 cents on the US Gulf Coast cash market to \$22.80 a barrel.

"It's kind of a mystery why the market's up here," said James Fiedler, vice president of EDF Man International Futures, Inc. in New York.

"There's no fundamental reason why heating oil and crude prices should be up or gasoline prices should be rising on Jan 29," the analysts said.

Prices were moving up early in the day on the Merc, but "the rally stalled around midday," Konikowski said.

Judge studying Braniff plane suit

ORLANDO, Florida, Jan 30, (UPI): A three-day trial is over, but a federal bankruptcy judge has made no ruling on Braniff Inc.'s right to 11 undelivered European-hull jetliners that the company agreed to buy.

Braniff agreed to buy the Airbus A320s before it filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sept. 28.

In a bankruptcy trial that ran Friday, Saturday and Monday, the marketing subsidiary of Airbus Industrie, a four-nation European consortium that builds planes, argued the purchase contract was voided by Braniff's bankruptcy. Attorneys for the Orlando carrier argued that the agreement remains valid.

At the end of testimony Monday, US bankruptcy judge Timothy Corcoran III took the case under advisement. A ruling is expected next week.

None of the planes has been delivered to Braniff, which

made its last commercial flight Nov 7 and its last charter flight Christmas Eve. Braniff has fought to retain the right to buy the planes and hopes to sell or lease them or the contract.

"The whole value of the A320 planes is to remarket them," said Ann Cook, a Braniff spokeswoman in Kansas City.

In November, Corcoran ruled that Braniff's bankruptcy did not free another European company, GPA Group PLC, of Shannon, Ireland, from its contract to lease Braniff 26 A320s.

The A320 leases are considered to be among Braniff's most valuable assets.

Braniff currently has no A320s. GPA delivered five, but when Braniff failed to make payments, GPA sued, and Braniff agreed in December to return them.

Budget plan sets the stage for some tough battles with Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (Reuters): US President George Bush's fiscal 1991 budget plan sets the stage for some tough battles with Congress over spending for military and domestic programmes and reducing red ink without raising taxes.

With both sides still smarting from a bruising fight last year over Bush's proposal to reduce the capital gains tax on long-term investments, the administration and Congress are unlikely to come up with an early agreement on the \$1.2 trillion spending plan.

Congress already is criticising Bush's proposed \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence in fiscal 1991.

With democratic and economic reforms taking place in Eastern Europe and tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States easing, lawmakers are looking forward to so-called "peace

dividend."

Many hope to be able to divert spending from the military and increase spending for domestic social programmes that were neglected during former President Ronald Reagan's eight years in the White House.

The defence proposal represents a slight increase over the \$301.6 billion authorised for the current fiscal year. But since the defence budget does not keep pace with inflation, the administration says the proposed amount shows a reduction.

House Speaker Thomas Foley said shortly after the President's budget was publicly released on Monday that "there will be larger reductions in defence spending."

Lawmakers will be working within the

confines of a deficit reduction law which requires the deficit be more than \$64 billion in fiscal 1991.

Bush says his plan would bring the 1991 deficit to \$63.1 billion without any new taxes. But budget analysts say the administration arrived at that number by using some of the gimmickry that has marked previous budgets.

Bush relies heavily on robust economic growth, envisaging a nine per cent rise in revenues offsetting the three per cent rise in spending.

The plan assumes gross national product (GNP) will expand by 2.6 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990. A 3.3 per cent growth rate is projected for fiscal 1991.

Many fiscal analysts believe the administration's predictions are too rosy and that after seven years of uninter-

ted growth the economy is due for a recession or, at the very least, a significant slowdown.

While Bush's proposal to provide tax benefits for special family savings plans is likely to get a warm reception in Congress, another battle is likely over his plan to cut the capital gains tax, which opponents say will only help the wealthy.

Passage of Bush's plan has been complicated by a competing tax reduction proposal from Senator Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat who wants to benefit all workers by cutting social security taxes.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today he welcomed President Bush's budget plan as "it shows an enthusiastic US attitude toward reducing the budget deficit."

Bush sent to Congress yesterday a \$1.23 trillion fiscal 1991 programme which anticipates a deficit of \$63.1 billion.

"We appreciate the effort the United States has made" under the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law requiring a deficit target of \$64 billion, Kaifu's spokeswoman Mayumi Morioka said.

Morioka also said the closure of three US military bases in South Korea will not adversely affect the defence of Japan and the region.

"I think the United States will continue to maintain the appropriate level of military presence in the Asia-Pacific region," she said.

Defence agency Director General Juro Matsumoto said Japan's defence build-up programme will not be affected by a cut in US defence spending.

مكدام الزمان

US incomes outstripped consumer spending

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP): US consumer spending rose 7.3 per cent in 1989, its slowest advance in three years, while incomes jumped 9 per cent, the largest increase in five years, the Commerce Department said today.

The Commerce Department said spending totalled \$3.58 trillion last year, posting the smallest gain since a 6.4 per cent advance in 1986.

Consumer spending is considered a barometer of economic health because it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity. The department reported last Friday that spending posted a rare decline of 0.1 per cent during the entire fourth quarter of 1989.

Incomes totalled \$4.43 trillion last year, their 9 per cent rise marked the sharpest jump since a 9.5 per cent increase in 1984.

Americans' savings rate, savings as a per cent of disposable income, rose to 5.5 per cent from 4.2 per cent rate in 1988. It was the highest rate since the 6.1 per cent posted in 1984.

On a monthly basis, spending rose 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.58 trillion in December, the smallest increase since a 1 per cent advance last August.

Incomes, however, edged up just 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.57 trillion, the smallest increase since a 0.2 per cent gain last September.

The unusually cold weather contributed to the December jump in spending. Expenditures for fuel oil, electricity and natural gas increased \$15.1 billion following a 3.1 per cent increase in November.

Purchases of durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — rose \$6.7 billion after declining \$2.8 billion the previous month. Non-durable purchases gained \$6.2 billion after a 3.4 billion November increase. Spending on services increased \$24.1 billion following a 9.6 billion advance the previous month.

Several special factors affected the incomes last month.

Boeing reports higher profit

LOS ANGELES, Jan 20, (Reuters): Boeing Co, the world's largest commercial aircraft maker, today reported increased sales and earnings for 1989 as commercial sales offset losses on government contracts despite a 48-day strike.

The Seattle-based company had net earnings of \$973 million on sales of \$20.28 billion in 1989 against \$614 million in profits on sales of \$19.92 billion in 1988.

It reported an operating loss of \$474 million in its defence and space business for 1989.

For the fourth quarter, earnings declined to \$77 million from \$174 million a year ago. Sales were \$4.85 billion compared with \$4.87 billion a year earlier.

Boeing said the machinists' strike in the fourth quarter caused "significant delivery delays" which resulted in sales being \$2 billion lower than projected.

Boeing said it expects 1990 sales to increase to about \$27 billion from \$20.28 billion in 1989, due mainly to increased commercial aircraft deliveries.

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.28952	0.29027
Saudi riyal	0.48726	0.48799
DM	0.17336	0.17412
Sw.Fr.	0.19568	0.19659
F.fr.	0.05105	0.05157
£	0.0002331	0.0002344
Jap.yen	0.0020217	0.0020312
Bah.din	0.07655	0.07705
UAE Dir.	0.07681	0.07731
S. riyal	0.07716	0.07766
Q. riyal	0.07949	0.07999
O. riyal	0.74140	0.75144

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	bid	Offered
1 month	8-7/16	8-11/16
3 months	8-3/8	8-5/8
6 months	8-7/16	8-11/16

Indian rupee		
0.017220	0.017340	0.017460
Pakistan rupee	0.013630	0.013750
Bangladesh taka	0.009000	0.009120
US dollar	0.290800	0.291000
Found sterling	0.490000	0.490200
UAE dirham	0.079140	0.079260
Deutsche mark	0.175450	0.175570
Japanese yen	0.002029	0.002031

Iran seeks Japanese help in economic plan

TOKYO, Jan 30, (Agencies): Iran is seeking Japanese expertise and finance for a five-year plan aimed at reviving its war-torn economy, Japanese trade officials said today.

An Iranian Oil Ministry mission on a week-long visit to Tokyo unveiled details of a new economic plan allowing for the use of up to \$27 billion of foreign debt in meeting with executives at Japanese trading companies.

On the Iranian project list are oil and gas development, refinery upgrading and petrochemical production. One source said Iran wants to develop super heavy crude oil fields, which have reserves estimated by Iran to total 30 billion barrels.

Trade sources said the delegation, led by Deputy Oil Minister Madjed

Hodjatizadeh, gave no details of the projects.

An official at a Japanese trade house said Iran wants to upgrade its refineries to raise domestic lubricant supplies.

He said Iran is unlikely to ask for Japanese yen credit and would rather seek more advance payment of oil bills to which major Japanese traders agreed last year.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday thanked the parliament and its oversight committee for reviewing and approving his \$112 billion five-year plan, Tehran television reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying "I thank the guardian council and the parliament for approving the five-year

plan, and express the government's readiness to implement it in its entirety."

The Islamic Republic News Agency reported earlier this week that the 12-member guardian council, which screens legislation for conformity with Islam and the constitution, sent parts of the plan back to parliament for amendment.

Iran, also monitored in Nicosia, did not say what portions of the plan were found objectionable, nor has it reported on its subsequent approval.

It was not clear whether Rafsanjani was thanking the council for giving the go ahead to parts of his plan, or whether the blocked portions of the scheme had also been approved.

He was speaking at an unusual meeting of all the top leadership in the country that the radio said was called to plan celebrations for the upcoming 11th anniversary of the 1979 revolution that brought the clergy to power. The anniversary is Feb 1-11.

Rafsanjani's ambitious five-year plan, designed to revive Iran's shattered economy, was passed by the 270-member majlis, or parliament, after leading radicals blocking the scheme bowed to a stern warning by the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The radicals, led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, objected to Rafsanjani's call for foreign investment in reconstruction projects.

and his plan to privatise inefficient government projects.

Mohtashemi, who won the Tehran seat in parliamentary elections last December, said earlier this month that he opposed any direct foreign investment in Iran.

But Iran's Deputy Finance Minister, Mendi Navvab, said Saturday Iran welcomed foreign investment, and that Tehran's policies provided grounds for mutual co-operation with foreign companies, Irna reported earlier.

It quoted Navvab as saying that foreigners were legally free to invest in joint ventures with Iranian partners as long as the foreign stake in each project did not exceed 49 per cent.

The five-year plan was announced in

March but Rafsanjani later announced major changes, adding another \$16 billion in spending.

The optimistic plan aims to triple non-oil exports in 1990-95 from \$3 billion a year to \$9 billion. At present Iran relies on oil and gas exports for around 95 per cent of its foreign exchange.

The programme aims to rebuild war-battered industries, and upgrade factories which fell into disrepair during the eight-year war with Iraq which cost an annual \$10 billion.

Iran's strained relations with the West prompted Rafsanjani to seek technological assistance from the Soviet Union, which last year signed agreements totalling \$6 billion with Tehran.

Algeria to double gas exports in '90s

Debt-ridden economy to get a boost

ALGIERS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Algeria, already one of the world's top gas exporters, plans to double sales in the 1990s, providing a welcome boost for its debt-ridden economy.

Officials of the state-run energy group Sonatrach predict growing demand for gas in the United States, Western and Central Europe and in neighbouring Maghreb states linked to Algeria in a regional economic group.

Sonatrach's ambitious plans include new natural gas pipelines to Europe and new production facilities, to be financed largely with foreign money.

"Our vision is very clear," the company's deputy general manager Mustapha Faïd said in an interview.

"By the year 2000, we aim for an export capacity of between 60 billion and 80 billion cubic metres a year of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"We also plan to double liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (export capacity) to seven million tonnes annually."

Last year Sonatrach exported a record 17.2 billion cubic metres of LNG, up 20 per cent over 1988, making it the world's

second largest exporter after Indonesia. Natural gas exports climbed six per cent to 12.2 billion cubic metres.

With Algeria's oil output likely to remain steady at about 750,000 barrels a day, rising gas revenue will play a vital role in pulling the country out of its economic crisis.

The country needs more cash to pay off \$24 billion in foreign debt, feed and house a burgeoning population of about 24 million and revive stagnant industries.

Algeria's proven natural gas reserves of nearly three trillion cubic metres are the largest in Africa and the seventh largest in the world.

World demand for gas is rising as environmental concerns prompt consumers in industrialised countries to switch from dirtier fuels.

Within weeks, Sonatrach expects to sign contracts with US and French firms to revamp and expand gas liquefaction plants at Arzew on the Western coast and Skikda in the east.

Faïd said work would be completed by the end of 1992, boosting total LNG capacity to 33

billion cubic metres a year from around 25 billion.

Construction of a new LNG unit of around five billion cubic metres a year was planned by the turn of the century.

Faïd projected LNG sales to the United States at 12 billion cubic metres a year by the mid-1990s, up from 6.7 billion now.

Natural gas exports are to double in the coming decade to 30 billion to 40 billion cubic metres a year through construction of a pipeline to Spain and expansion of an existing one to Italy.

Italy, Algeria's largest natural gas buyer, has agreed to help add a fourth line under the Mediterranean from Tunisia to Sicily to expand deliveries from East Algeria's giant Hassi R'Mel field.

The project, due for completion by 1993, would boost capacity to 22 billion cubic metres a year from 16 billion.

"This will enable us to expand sales to Tunisia, Italy, Yugoslavia and other potential markets," Faïd said.

He said the planned pipeline to Spain via Morocco would be able to handle eight billion to nine billion cubic metres annually by

1996 and up to 20 billion in the year 2000.

Potential buyers Sonatrach is contacting included Portugal, Spain, France, West Germany, Britain, Belgium and Switzerland. Faïd said Portugal, Spain and Morocco alone could take up to 8.5 billion cubic metres a year through the line.

LPG output, not including that from refineries, is also set to double from an annual four million tonnes currently through expanded gas production, greater LPG extraction and construction of new treatment facilities.

With ample reserves and apparently ready markets, the main potential obstacle to the expansion is financial. Algeria cannot pay for big construction programmes by itself.

But Faïd said he foresaw no difficulty finding external financing through foreign joint venture partners and financial institutions.

A law liberalising foreign investment is under preparation and will pave the way for joint ventures on major projects such as new LPG and LNG units, Faïd said.



Picture shows Dietlef Wittig addressing the press conference.

VW official visits BMC

DETLEF Wittig, export general manager of VW Group visited Kuwait agent Bebbah Motors Company, accompanied by Friedrich Geduldig, Regional Manager. This visit was the first one for Wittig, six months after being appointed as export general manager. He showed great interest in the Kuwait market in particular and in the Gulf market in general, because Kuwait market is a strategic object for his company's export policies.

During the press conference held at the premises of Bebbah Motors Company, Shurwaik, he replied to several queries in the presence of Georg Dzierzow, BMC General Manager, and Eng. Nabil Al Sandani, the Sales Manager. He briefed the company's policy in offering VW Golf and the new PASSAT for Kuwait during the current year in Gulf Specifications for the first time since the issue of the unified Gulf Specifications in 1988.

In addition to Jetta model presently available and which

has achieved remarkable success in the Kuwait market.

He referred to the success achieved by the new Passat in the European markets, where sales have increased by two folds for 1989 to reach the figure of 200,000 cars, offering all the Audi models such as 90/100, Audi 200 Turbo in addition to Audi 80, which is presently available in Kuwait market and which has proven highly efficient and achieved a remarkable sales increase, compatible with its characterised price and specifications, suitable to the requirements of the Audi customers, in addition to offering the new Audi V8 models for sale, after being subjected to tests for its suitability for Kuwait climate for one year before being exhibited in the market.

This car is the top of the German technology and the only car with fuel injection 8-cylinder engine, driven by the four wheels continuously with four-speed automatic gear. This car is the

product of Audi's successful experiments over the years since the introduction of Audi Quattro in 1982 for the first time. Thereafter, all auto manufacturers have followed.

He also referred to the increase in sales by 10 per cent last year, to maintain its leadership for the European Automobile Manufacturers for the second successive year and thus achieving the target of producing three million Saloon cars in 1989 and to climb up to the fourth position internationally among the automobile manufacturing companies in the world.

Finally, he expressed his satisfaction of the service facilities provided by BMC to its customers, specially the new guarantee, which includes all services, spare parts and their installation on "Free of Charge" basis for all the Audi vehicles during the first two years or 50,000 km from the date of purchase. These services are considered the first of their type in Kuwait market.

US budget casts doubts on Egypt tank deals

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (Reuters): The United States unveiled budget for fiscal 1991 unveiled yesterday has cast doubt over two multi-billion dollar deals to sell tanks to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The decision to close the two production lines manufacturing the M1 Abrams tanks by early 1993 leaves both contracts up in the air, defence experts said.

The Bush administration said last October it wanted to sell 315 M-1A2 tanks to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth up to \$6 billion. It painstakingly shepherded the deal through Congress, overriding the objections of the powerful pro-Israel lobby.

Earlier, it had agreed to co-produce 540 of the less advanced M-1A1 tanks with Egypt, a deal valued at around \$2 billion. The tanks were to be assembled in Egypt from kits produced in the United States.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney denied in a news conference on the \$306.9 billion defence budget proposal that the decision meant the end of the deals.

"There is enough, I believe, in terms of foreign sales, so that one of the lines will be able to run for a period of time to satisfy the Saudi and the Egyptian buyers," he said.

But State Department spokesman Richard Boucher acknowledged that the deals would have to be reassessed. In the absence of domestic orders, unit costs to produce the tanks for Saudi Arabia are certain to rise drastically.

"The Defence Department is discussing with the Saudis the implications of the Defence Department's decisions on tanks are for Saudis," he said.

The decision appeared to open the way for the United States' international rivals such as Britain and West Germany to attempt to grab the lucrative Saudi order.

The M1 is built by General Dynamics Corp at two plants in Detroit and Lima, Ohio.

Dow Jones Stock Exchange prices (Bd Jan 30, 1990)			
	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	—	—	—
Alcatel	—	—	—
Alm. Chen	—	—	—
Alm. Nis	—	—	—
Aut. Fab	233.75	—	—
Ashtok Ley	—	—	—
Aut. Pad	57.50	226.85	222.50
Aut. Pad	42	40	42
Auto Corp	57.50	52.50	55
Nat. Index	399.68	389.93	—
Bajaj Auto	—	—	—
Colgate	—	—	—
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom. Dye	—	205	205
BK Road	—	96	98
Bear. Wal	—	80	85
Candair	—	—	—
Cen. Enka	—	3200	3225
Cen. Sps	—	2610	2580
Colgate	188.75	187.50	185
Crown Gr	—	—	—
DCM	13.50	14.50	—
Deep Fert	32	31	31.50
Dynapac	64	62	64
EL Hotels	61	60	61
Escorts	81.50	81	81.50
BSE Index	716.23	701.08	—
Esakay	142.50	138.75	140
Esar	29.50	28.50	29
Food Spl	107.50	103.75	105
Forbes	50	48.75	50
Gar Poly	44	43.50	43
Glaxo	108	105	108
GNC	39	39	38
Grasim	—	111	112
GE Ship	48.50	47.25	47
GSCF	—	162.58	162.50
Guj. Alk	81.50	80.50	81.50
Guj. Heavy	16	14.50	15.50
Hind. Honda	18	17	18
Hind. Ciba	—	1230	1215
Hind. Lever	104.50	103	104.50
Hind. Croma	160	152.50	153.75
Hind. Motor	53.50	53.50	53.50
Hind. Ind	—	235	237.50
Hind. Ind	1840	1850	1790
Ingersoll	230	205	212.50
ITC	—	51	53.50
Sea. Cos	—	78	81
Shaw. Wal	—	—	—
Shur. Cos	—	—	—
Shi. Fib	55	53	55
Siemens	—	105	103
SKF	—	1350	1360
Spic	—	53.50	53.50
St. Mills	—	66	66
Tata Oil	—	—	—
Tata Chem	127	126	124
Tata. Pow	5074	4850	4850
Telco	—	113	113.75
Thapp. Agro.	—	—	—
Tico	—	106.50	107.50
Vam. Org	150	143.75	143.75
Vani	21.25	21.25	21.25
Volvas	—	690	680
Wimco	—	24	24.50
Zenith	—	55	56
Zenith Agro	61	58	60

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Nikkei stock average: 37215.67			
(-41.97)			
Volume: 450 mil shs			
Yen exchange rate: 143.28			
Name of stock	CI	Ca	
Advantest Corp	3700	-130	
Ajinomoto	2780	-20	
Alps Electric	2050	-20	
Amada	1960	+10	
Asahi Chem Ind	1180	-10	
Asahi Glass	29.50	28.50	
C. Itoh Co.	1110	+10	
Copcon Inc.	1820	-40	
Casio Corp	1590	+10	
Dai Nippon Printing	2250	0	
Daiichi Sanyaku	2910	+40	
Daiichi Sanyaku	2880	+30	
Daiichi Sanyaku	2170	+30	
Esai	2230	-10	
Fujitsu Ltd.	8160	-80	
Fuji Photo	4420	-30	
Fujitsu Ltd.	1580	-30	
Hitachi Credit	1880	+50	
Hitachi Koki	2050	-20	
Hitachi Ltd.	1580	-30	
Hitachi Metal	1670	-10	
Honda Motor	1830	+14	
Ito Yokado Co	4340	+30	
Kajima Corp	2080	-20	
Kawasaki H I	1020	+10	
Kobe Steel Ind	1030	-30	
Kokusai Elec	4170	-120	
Komatsu Ltd.	6310	-110	
Kyocera Corp	3380	-20	
Matsushita Ind	3450	-40	
Mitsubishi Ind	2280	-20	
Mitsubishi Corp	950	-8	
Mitsubishi Corp	1760	0	
Mitsubishi Estate	2330	+10	
Mitsubishi H 1	1120	+10	
Mitsui B 1	2730	+20	
Mizuno Corp	1920	-40	
Mochida Ph	4250	-20	
Mori Seiki Co.	4350	-50	
NEC Corp	2010	-30	
Nikon Corp	1670	0	
Nippon Steel Co	4400	+60	
Nippon Sun Corp	715	+6	
Nippondenso	2460	+10	
Nissin Corp	1600	-10	
Nomura Sec	1320	+60	
Okuma Mach	1760	0	
Okwada K Co	2280	0	
Orion Corp	6250	+140	
Pioneer Corp	3290	-160	
Renovaw Look Inc	6450	0	
Sanyo Elec Co.	986	-13	
Sanyo Elec Co.	6290	-10	
Sanyo Elec Co.	1780	-20	
Shin-Etsu Chem	1430	+10	
Shindengen Elec	8310	-340	
Sony Corp	1700	-40	
Sumitomo Elec Ind	795	-30	
Sumitomo Metal Ind	2235	-20	
Takada Chemical	6170	-120	
TDK Corp	2020	+30	
Tokai Metals & Fire	5710	-20	
Toshiba Elec Pow	3830	-50	
Toshiba Electron Ltd	2190	+10	
Toshiba Printing	978	+8	
Tosyo Inc.	2480	+30	
Toshiba Corp	2480	+30	
Toyota Motor	1220	+20	
Yaskawa Elec			
Printed by Nomura Investment Banking (Midland), Bahrain			

lan 1990: Glasgow's great year

Underwood turned into a 'scary cult'

By Marc Kemmis

THE Scots always welcome the New Year in lively fashion, but had never seen anything like the spectacular way Glasgow marked the start of its reign as Europe's cultural capital for 1990. The firework displays and laser shows heralded a year in which Scotland's largest city stages nearly 2,000 special events, and expects to welcome many thousands who have never visited it before.

Museums, galleries and theatres have been refurbished; a new concert hall will open; 30 new works have been commissioned from playwrights, artists and choreographers; and there will be performances by opera and ballet companies, orchestras, choirs, jazz bands and folk groups from many lands.

Not so long ago, "culture" tended to be regarded as something Edinburgh had — but not Glasgow, 44 miles to the west. The Scottish capital has been renowned for over 40 years for its international arts festival, but most of Glasgow's visitors were primarily on business, rather than pleasure. The city has more than 35 museums and galleries, and a lively cultural life, but few outsiders seemed aware of it.

In 1983, the then Lord Provost launched "Glasgow's Miles Better," a campaign devised to correct such misconceptions and help revitalize the city, as visitors will see, it has worked. Later that year Queen Elizabeth II opened the fabulous Burrell Collection, in a £21 million purpose-built gallery in Pollok Park.

Local shipowner Sir William Burrell, a life-long collector, gave 6,000 art treasures to the city in 1944, and 2,000 more when he died in 1958. It was another 25 years before most of them went on public display, but now the gallery is regarded as one of the world's finest. Her Majesty returned in 1985 to open the big Scottish Exhibition Centre beside the River Clyde, then in 1988 crowds flocked to the five-month Glasgow Garden Festival, which revived derelict land on the opposite bank. Over two million visited the city, a total likely to be left far behind in 1990, with its vast programme of events stretching right through the year.

Over 125 exhibitions — including a £5 million exposition illustrating Glasgow's 1,000-year history, opening on April 7 in the 22 massive vaulted arches under the Central Railway Station — take place during the year. The Burrell will feature Degas (until Feb 25), Picasso (May 4 - June 17) and 'The Age of Van Gogh' (Nov 30 - Jan 1991), as well as displaying selections of its own varied treasures.

The influential Glasgow-born architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) will be the subject of several exhibitions, mostly at the Hunterian Gallery which incorporates Mackintosh House; and in Bellahouston Park, Mackintosh's 1901 designs have been followed in the construction of his extraordinary "House for an Art Lover," which will

be open at weekends from August. Pollok Park has a summer-long Henry Moore sculpture exhibition; and the McLellan galleries re-open on January 24 after a £3.5 million refurbishment. These Sauchiehall Street galleries house five exhibitions during the year, starting with the work of British artists under 35 (until March 4) followed by a British Art Now (Mar 27 - May 13) featuring works by established artists.

For opera lovers, opening productions by Scottish Opera from January to early March are Bartok's "Duke Bluebeard's Castle" and Verdi's "La Forza Del Destino." ing the year, and autumn sees the eagerly-awaited opening of the new 2,500-seat International Concert Hall, which will be the Scottish National Orchestra's new home. They give the opening concert on October 8, and the following weeks bring the Berlin Phil-

harmonic, the Bolshoi Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Israel Phil-

actors and real shipyard workers building and launching a ship — to be staged in a former shipyard by the Clyde (Sept 10 - Oct 27). During the year many Clyde-built vessels will make a return visit, including the liner QE2 on July 27.

Glasgow's well-established spring festival, Mayfest (May 4-27) promises to be bigger and better than ever. During summer there will be a succession of other festivals — country music (May 13-19), choral music (June 22 - July 8), jazz (June 29 - July 8), folk music (July 2 - 8), kite-flying (Aug 4 - 5), and a women's festival (Sept) celebrating women in the arts. On June 2-3, George Square and surrounding streets will be transformed into "the world's largest street party," with open-air theatre, buskers and non-stop music, and pop and rock bands on Glasgow Green.

Sporting events will also feature in Glasgow's big year, including the European Indoor Athletics Championships (Mar 3-4), the World Highland Games Championships (June 9-10), and the European Special Olympics (July 20-27).

This is just an indication of the vast scope of the celebrations, and why Glaswegians expect so many visitors to join in the fun. They will find a city well-stocked with hotels and shops (including such exciting new developments as the St Enoch Centre; Princes Square; and the Old Sheriff's Court, where you can see clothes being designed and made, then buy the completed articles).

It is also a fine touring centre, with many places of interest and superb scenery nearby. As well as Edinburgh (its festival is August 12 - Sept 2) there is Loch Lomond, only 18 miles away and one of Scotland's loveliest lakes. You can take boat trips on it, as you can on the Clyde — including one to the Isle of Arran, often described as "Scotland in miniature." To the south, the Galloway peninsula is less dramatic than the Highlands, but has delightful scenery, stately homes, memories of the poet Burns, and several championship golf courses.

THERE is only one thing in the world that frightens actor Blair Underwood, who plays L.A. Law's aggressive, black, go-getter Jonathan Rollins. And that is the adulation of women who are trying to turn him into a cult.

Among the thousands of romantic letters pouring in from all over the world to the handsome, 25-year-old actor are some that send a chill up his spine. These obsessed women tell in detail how they are making shrines in their homes so that they can worship him.

Blair, now into his third season with the Emmy award-winning television series, admitted to me: "It's scary."

And his father Frank, a retired colonel who is Blair's manager, explained: "Some of these women have developed a cultish fetish. They say they have whole rooms filled with pictures and memorabilia of Blair. These are like shrines."

I agree with him... this is scary. One young lady drove thousands of miles just to look at our house and to see where Blair went to high school. She said she just wanted to be in the presence of where he had been.

"Yes, you do get these bent, avid fans. But the majority of people just want to know what Blair is doing and to lend him their support. He gets a high percentage of the show's fan mail, a lot of it from England."

Blair, looking sharp as a young lawyer even while off-duty, added: "Of course, I do get romantic mail. But many of the letters are from people who are really into the show. I'm pleased to finally see a black character who stands up for what he wants and is competent."

"People say I encourage black youngsters to do something with their lives. One mother wrote to say that, because of me, her son was now determined to be a lawyer."

As lawyer Jonathan Rollins, Blair will still be relentlessly ambitious and arrogant in the new series. But viewers are in for a shock, for Jonathan will turn out to have a heart. And, while not exactly wearing it on the sleeve of his designer suit, it will bring about a change of character.

Jonathan will fall in love. And that newly-located heart will be broken by a dying girl.

Blair told me: "Early Jonathan has evolved. He is becoming more human, although I don't want the writers to write him down too much. It is Jonathan's edge that makes him interesting."

"Up until now we have seen him in the office being young, arrogant and cocky. Now you will see more of Jonathan and find out what makes him tick."

For example, his love interest is developed. It began in the last series, but we didn't do much with it. Now Jonathan becomes 'an item' with law clerk Rene Jones, played by Diana Moses. It is understood that we are romantically together.

Rene came into our law practice as a clerk. I was interviewing some people and she walked in the door and just blew me away. It turns out that she is married and going through a divorce. I help her with that. Now she starts helping me out with my professional work.

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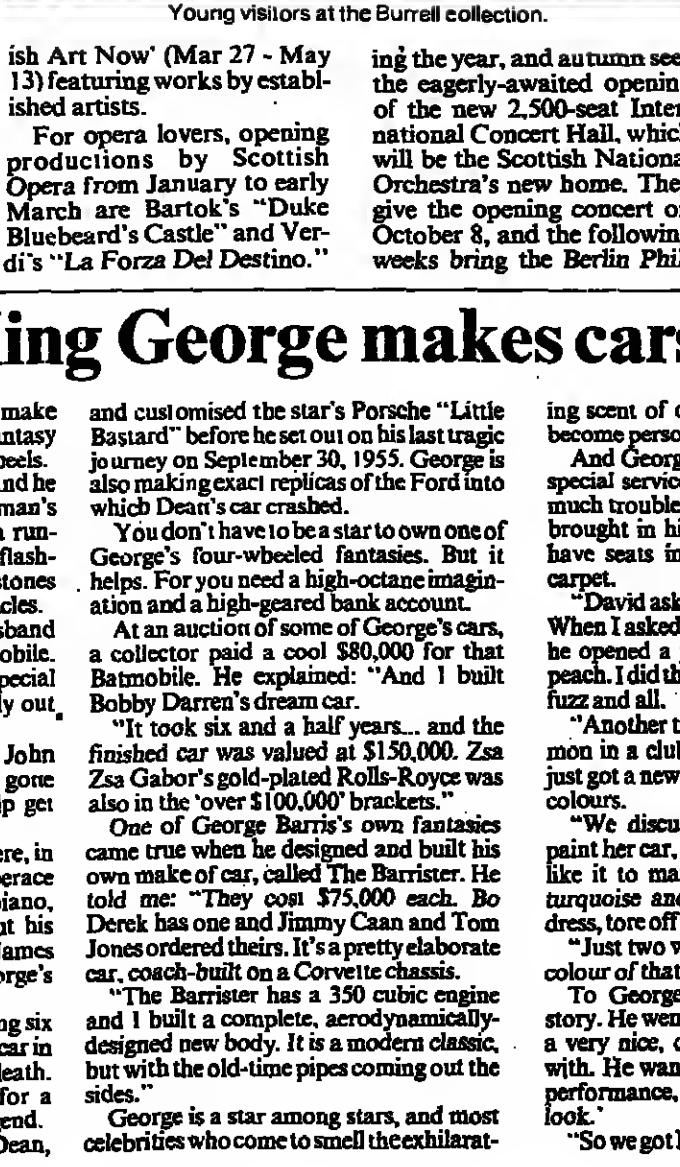
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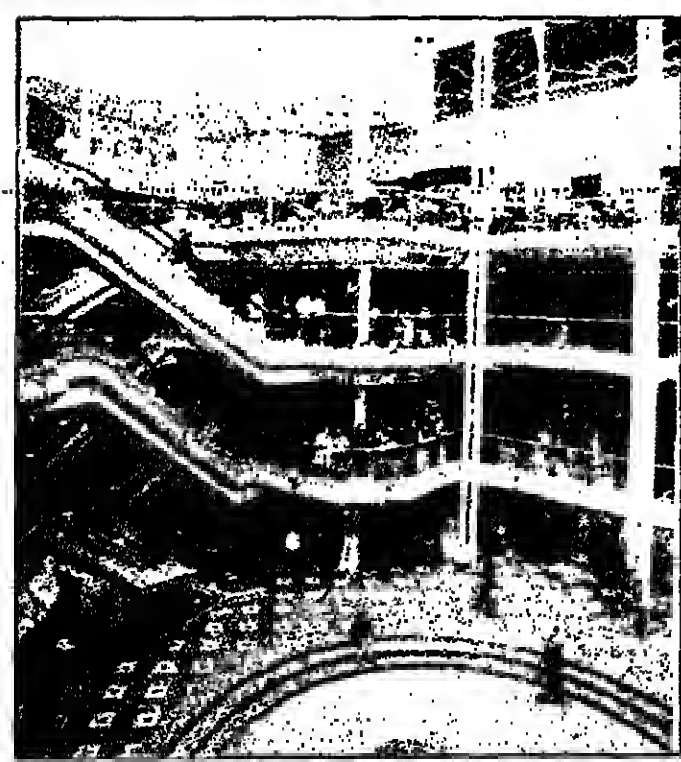
Loch Lomond



Princes Square, a new Glasgow shopping centre.



Young visitors at the Burrell collection.



Princes Square, a new Glasgow shopping centre.

'Daisy' author re-writes himself

Better job with the movie script

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Nothing kills a writer's soul as thoroughly as watching his theatrical work rewritten for the screen.

Traditionally, studios and producers have bought the screen rights to hit plays and then, for better or worse, turned them over to screenwriters. Playwriting and screenwriting are, after all, different disciplines and few can do both.

A notable current exception is Alfred Uhry, who wrote the spectacularly successful "Driving Miss Daisy" for the theater and won a Pulitzer prize for his efforts.

And wonder of wonders, he was selected by producers Richard and Lili Zuckor to write the movie script.

Reared as things turned out, he did as good or better a job with the movie as he did with the play.

Uhry, who was reared in Atlanta where "Driving Miss Daisy" takes place, just may win an Oscar for best screenplay based on material from another medium.

He says the difference in writing for the two is the difference between "show" and "tell."

"To play you have to tell a lot because the audience doesn't see a great many things," he said. "For instance, the secondary characters have to be discussed because they aren't seen. When you write a screenplay you show a lot of things that don't need telling."

The scenery and props for "Driving Miss Daisy" on stage consisted of two stools and one easy chair. There were only three people to play.

The movie fleshed out all the characters and opened up the story to include exteriors of all kinds, dozens of actors, interiors of automobiles, church services and a variety of sets.

Audy Cummings, location scout for the film, chose the very same home in which Uhry's grandmother lived when he was growing up as a boy.

"When I wrote the play I had no expectations of it becoming a movie," the writer said. "But I did see it as a movie in my head and it had 16 scenes — which is an awful lot for a play."



Blair Underwood

"And I have just been working on an episode which is really powerful. In it a girl who is my best friend from law school, whom I haven't seen since graduation, comes to visit me. Jonathan has to deal with the fact she is dying of a brain tumour."

"It is fascinating watching what he has to go through. The situation just rips him apart. Jonathan made other people suffer in earlier episodes. Now he is suffering. We are seeing more of his personal side."

Blair went on: "Originally, there was not much of Blair Underwood in Jonathan Rollins. Although we are both very determined people, Jonathan would go about achieving his goals in a very different manner than I would. But that is now starting to change some."

And L.A. Law fans will gaze in amazement at the next role Blair has in mind. The man who made his name in sharp city suits and sophisticated professional surroundings is planning to become a cowboy gunslinger.

Blair told me: "My cousin Ely and myself conceived a story inspired by a famous black cowboy called Nat Love. My brother, Frank Junior, took it a step further and wrote a book on the subject. Now we are putting it together to produce as a mini-series."

"I play a black cowboy, inspired by Nat, who is called Napoleon Airé. There were thousands of black cowboys in the old West, but you would never know it from the shows and films produced by Hollywood."

"When slavery ended in the 1800's, a lot of blacks went out West. Many were adopted by the Indian tribes because of the colour of their skins."

"Statistics conflict, but up to three out of every five cowboys at that time were black. Our story, spanning 40 years, tells of a family beset torn apart by one of its members. As they try desperately to keep together, there is violence, love, passion and hate."

The action moves from New Orleans, through Texas and Colorado and up in Montana. My character is a gunslinger."

But the next time viewers see Blair, it will be in a made-for-TV movie called Murder in Mississippi. In this, he plays James Chaney, one of three civil rights workers murdered by the Ku Klux Klan in 1964.

"It is set in the six months leading up to the men's deaths. A film I made before this, Mississippi Burning, started with the deaths and was about the F.B.I. investigation into them."

"You may have thought it strange that an actor who plays a sharp L.A. lawyer should want to be a cowboy. Well, my role here as a real Mississippi country boy is very different from Jonathan Rollins, too."

"I play James, Tom Hulse from Amadeus is rights worker Mickey Schwerner, Jennifer Grey, of Dirty Dancing, plays his wife and the other civil rights man is Andrew Goodman, who was in the movie Dead Poets Society."

"The story is basically about James Chaney and Mickey Schwerner in Mississippi during the last days of potent racism and segregation. The two friends from different worlds come together and fight together."

"James is a black country boy and Mickey is a white, Jewish social worker from New York. He arrives in a world where there is a definite distinction between black and white, and you don't mix the two. I'm very excited about the whole thing."

And, behind the scenes in real life, Blair works to help black children in need.

Within the last year, he has helped to set up a charity called Institute For Black Parenting. It is the only organization in Los Angeles that helps to find homes for black children who have fallen on hard times.

Blair explained softly: "My 10-year-old sister Melissa — my little buddy — is adopted. So I'm very much involved. In this city alone there are about 200 black children who need homes for various reasons."

Kustom King George makes cars into Hollywood stars

Stocky George Barris promises to make every Hollywood star's wildest fantasy come true... so long as it has four wheels.

They call him King Kustomizer. And he can dream up anything from Batman's original furry black Batmobile to a run-about for Elton John complete with flashing lights, \$10,000's worth of rhinestones and built-in bow tie and giant spectacles.

Bo Derek used to pop in with husband John to get to work on their dream-mobile. Ex-wife, Ursula Andress' extra-special BMW roadster was parked discreetly out the back.

Zsa Zsa Gabor, Farrah Fawcett, John Travolta and James Caan have all gone down to George's workshop to help get their show cars on the road.

Bob Hope has a golf cart made there, in his own image. And the late Liberace ordered upholstery like a grand piano, with embroidered notes spelling out his favourite tune, "I'll be seeing you." James Bond has roared into action in George's cars and so has TV's Knight Rider.

Now 63-year-old George is building six replicas of the Porsche Spyder sports car in which James Dean crashed to his death. And he is recreating the accident for a movie called James Dean — The Legend. George was "car buddies" with Dean,

and customised the star's Porsche "Little Bastard" before he set out on his last tragic journey on September 30, 1955. George is also making exact replicas of the Ford into which Dean's car crashed.

You don't have to be a star to own one of George's four-wheeled fantasies. But it helps. For you need a high-octane imagination and a high-geared bank account.

At an auction of some of George's cars, a collector paid a cool \$80,000 for that Batmobile. He explained: "And I built Bobby Darren's dream car."

"It took six and a half years... and the finished car was valued at \$150,000. Zsa Zsa Gabor's gold-plated Rolls-Royce was also in the 'over \$100,000' brackets."

One of George Barris's own fantasies came true when he designed and built his own make of car, called The Barrister. He told me: "They cost \$75,000 each. Bo Derek has one and Jimmy Caan and Tom Jones ordered theirs. It's a pretty elaborate car, coach-built on a Corvette chassis."

The Barrister has a 350 cubic engine and I built a complete, aerodynamically-designed new body. It is a modern classic, but with the old-time pipes coming out the sides."

George is a star among stars, and most celebrities who come to smell the exhilarat-

ing scent of oil, petrol and paint stay to become personal friends.

And George stays in business by giving special services. No way-out whim is too much trouble. He said: "David Carradine brought in his BMW roadster. He didn't have seats in it, but sat on a Pakistan carpet."

"David asked me for a special paint job. When I asked him what colour he wanted, he opened a paper bag and pulled out a peach. I did the car that exact colour... with fuzz and all."

"Another time, I was playing backgammon in a club with singer Cher. She had just got a new Mercedes, and was into new colours."

"We discussed what colour I should paint her car, and Cher decided she would like it to match her dress... a kind of turquoise and white. She pulled up the dress, tore off the hem and handed it to me."

"Just two weeks later, she had a car the colour of that dress."

To George, every custom car tells a story. He went on: "Thai John Travolta is a very nice, quiet young fellow to work with. He wanted something with a lot of performance, and with 'a performance look.'"

"So we got him a TransAm Firebird and



BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dick Browne



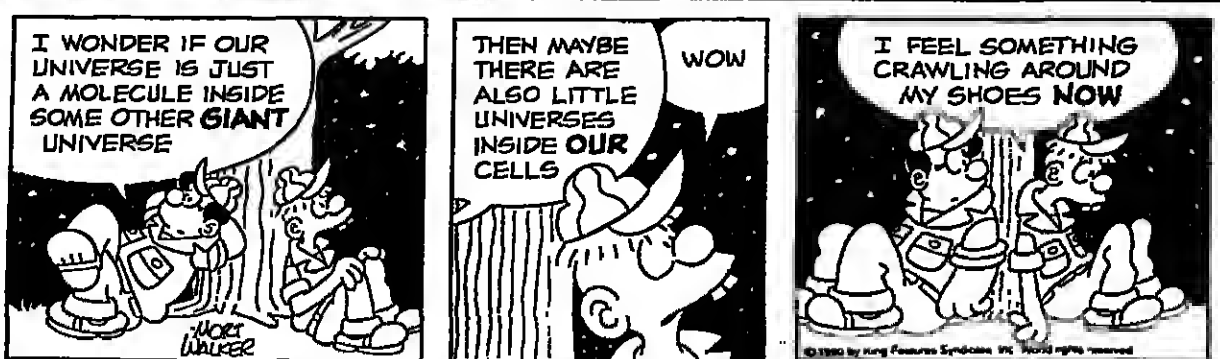
THE CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



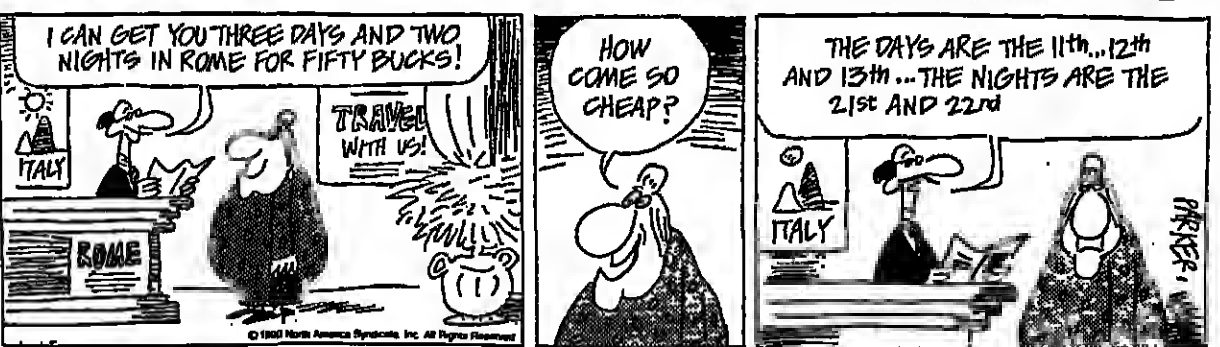
BEETLE BAILEY

By Mont Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brent Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP

By Hank Ketcham



WE MAN

By John Deering

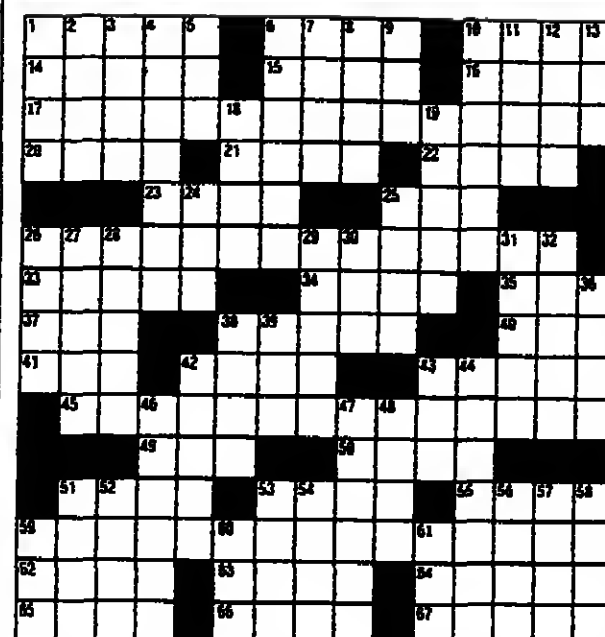


THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brent Parker & Johnny Hart



TODAY'S CROSSWORD

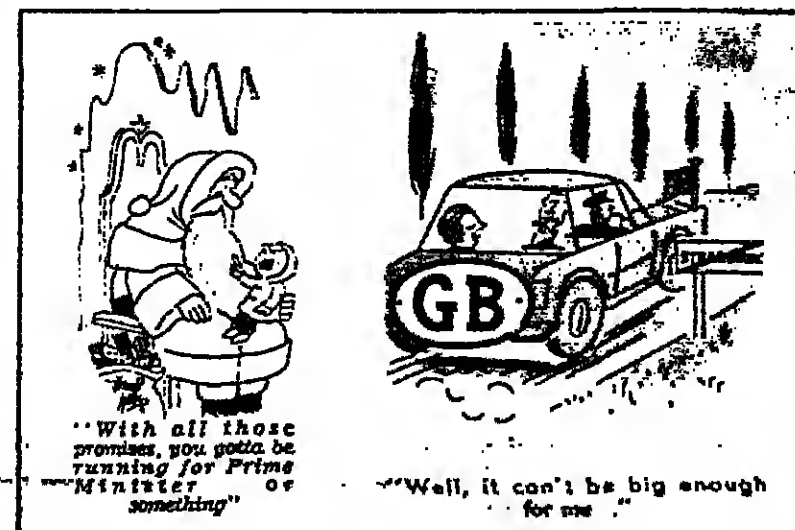


- ACROSS**
- Aspirant's goal
 - Donahue
 - House plant
 - Others, in Madrid
 - New Rochelle campus
 - Lendi
 - Edge of a sort
 - Partner of now
 - Resort near Venice
 - Man or Wight
 - Utah's state flower
 - Model Carol
 - Wild carrot
 - City on the Katun River
 - Himalayan mythical figure
 - Once around the track
 - "— a boy!"
 - Tiber's capital
 - Ripen, as cheddar
 - Before plan or program
 - Near East ketch
 - Selassie
 - Robert Penn Warren 1946 novel
 - "— the fields we go..."
 - Pockets after taxes
 - He has his pride
 - Re followers
 - River in Zaire
 - Handy man
 - Sheltered
 - Berg opera
 - Representative...
 - News
 - Artist Calder, to
- DOWN**
- Castle ditch
 - Emulate Dürer
 - Algonquian
 - Guidance
 - Cleo's killer
 - Quill
 - Removed the weeds
 - "— many words"
 - Palmas
 - Celebration, Spanish style
 - Knives
 - Superlative review
 - Compass point
 - Gymnast Korbut
 - Actress Palmer
 - Bambi's aunt
 - Movie pooch
 - Wit's bit
 - Sonic start
 - Picasso prop
 - Helen Hayes
 - lives here
 - M.I.T. grads
 - Have dibs on
 - Kind of scout
 - Hammer head
 - A.k.a. The Cowardly Lion
 - Make tracks
 - Member of a pool
 - Alt
 - Mingate
 - Had a peek
 - Continuous coming
 - "— as a pin"
 - Composer Schirrin
 - Champagne bucket
 - Heavy hammer
 - Winnie — Pu
 - First place
 - Camera feature
 - Villa d'
 - Mandible
 - Ga.'s neighbor
 - Deserter

GOREN BRIDGE

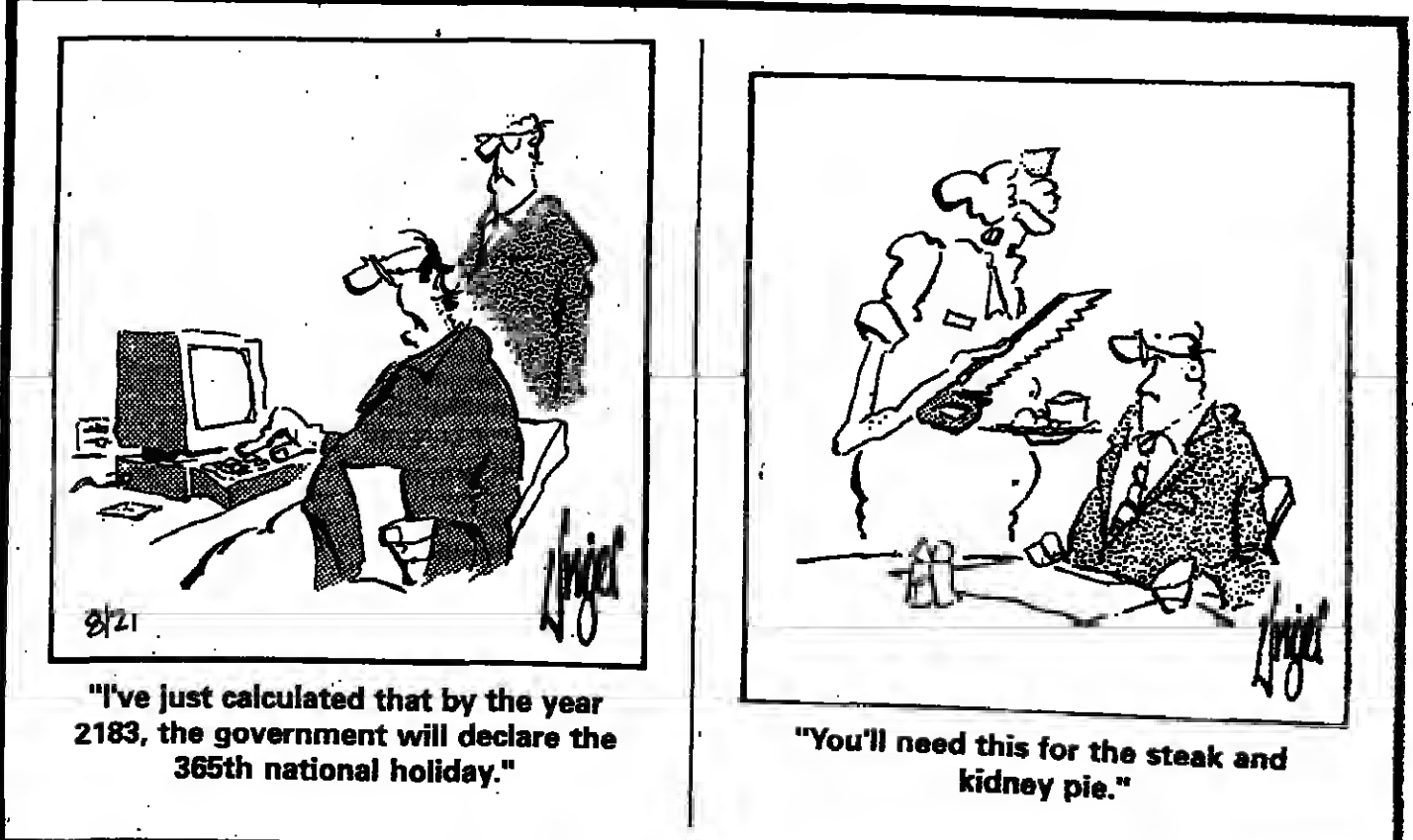
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South on score, you hold:**
 ♠AQJ43 ♥5 ♦A1062 ♣763
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
 Pass 1 NT Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—Partner is not running from one spade with a weak hand; he is making a forward-going bid. That means he should have at least the equivalent of an opening bid. We suggest you invite game by raising to two no trump.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠A9 ♥AK98 ♦AJ84 ♣Q83
 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
 A.—You are in the slam zone, but you have no idea yet where you want to play the hand. To leave the maximum room for exploration respond one diamond. Partner's next bid will help clarify his holding.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
 ♠A4 ♥76 ♦J53 ♣AK7643
 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
 A.—You do not have quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is one no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable with 40**
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
 ♠Q7 ♥K854 ♦653 ♣K1063
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 1 NT Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—Partner has shown a balanced minimum opening bid. Since your hand is a balanced minimum response, a partnership is the best you can hope for. Pass, even though you have four-card support for partner's minor and your side surely has an eight-card club fit.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠KJ1098 ♥32 ♦A98 ♣K84
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—Point count does not do full justice to your hand. All the values are prime, you have a fifth trump, good intermediates, a high honor in partner's suit and a ruffing value. This hand revalues to a full opening bid, so jump to four spades.



YOUR STARS

- Aries** March 21 - April 20
 You will tend to be rather overconfident and you should do all you can to curb this tendency. You are liable to take too much for granted. Spend a little more time with your family if at all possible. Be pertinent.
- Cancer** June 21 - July 20
 You should concentrate on getting down to essentials. Details will have to be left until later. You should have more faith in yourself, no reason not to. Persevere with something you are learning. Be grateful.
- Libra** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
 You should try to see a little more common sense. Avoid making a mountain out of a molehill. And do try to keep calm when dealing with a difficult person. Your lucky numbers are 27 and 33. Be more objective.
- Capricorn** Dec. 21 - Jan. 20
 You should not be slow to show your appreciation and gratitude. Be responsive. A tendency to live in the past should be resisted. Make sure you do not allow debts to accumulate.
- Taurus** April 21 - May 20
 You will have plenty of energy but must take care not to dissipate it or waste time. A tendency to overreact should be curbed. Try to think more about others than yourself. And avoid being supercilious. Be less nostalgic.
- Leo** July 21 - Aug. 21
 You will be proved right but do not boast about it, you could as easily have been wrong. Once you have made up your mind do not dither, get on with it. Try to avoid getting into bad habits. Be generous.
- Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
 Something that you have done will have better results than you had expected. You will be able to put a friend's mind at rest. Avoid acting on impulse, think about it carefully. Be frugal.
- Aquarius** Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
 You will have something to be pleased about, but there is nothing to be gained by resting on your laurels. Show a little more goodwill towards others. You should stop indulging in daydreams. Be careful.
- Gemini** May 21 - June 20
 You will have lot to do but must not get flustered, just get on with it. You will be better able to face the facts. An important decision should be taken right away. Be tactful.
- Virgo** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
 A little while spent tidying up will save a lot of time later on. You will tend to be forgetful, so do not spurn making notes. You will be able to do something you like doing but must not ignore something that has to be done but you do not like doing. Be respectful.
- Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 22
 Do all you can to preserve harmony in your family, particularly where the 'in laws' are concerned. You should not become involved in something that does not really concern you. Have the courage of your convictions. Be sincere.
- Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
 If you expect to have everything your own way you will be very disappointed. Make sure you are correctly dressed for the weather and the occasion. Avoid eating or drinking more than you know you should. Be tolerant.



"I've just calculated that by the year 2183, the government will declare the 365th national holiday."

"You'll need this for the steak and kidney pie."

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(AT5-51319-3)

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(AT5-51310-2)

HYUNDAI Stellar, 1988 model, fully automatic, AC, light green, 56,000 kms, in excellent condition. For best offer, cash. Tel: 4312842 after 2:00 pm.

(AT5-51316-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt, 1987, manual, white, in excellent condition, insured up to January 1991. Tel: 4741475, 2:00 pm onwards.

(AT5-51321-2)

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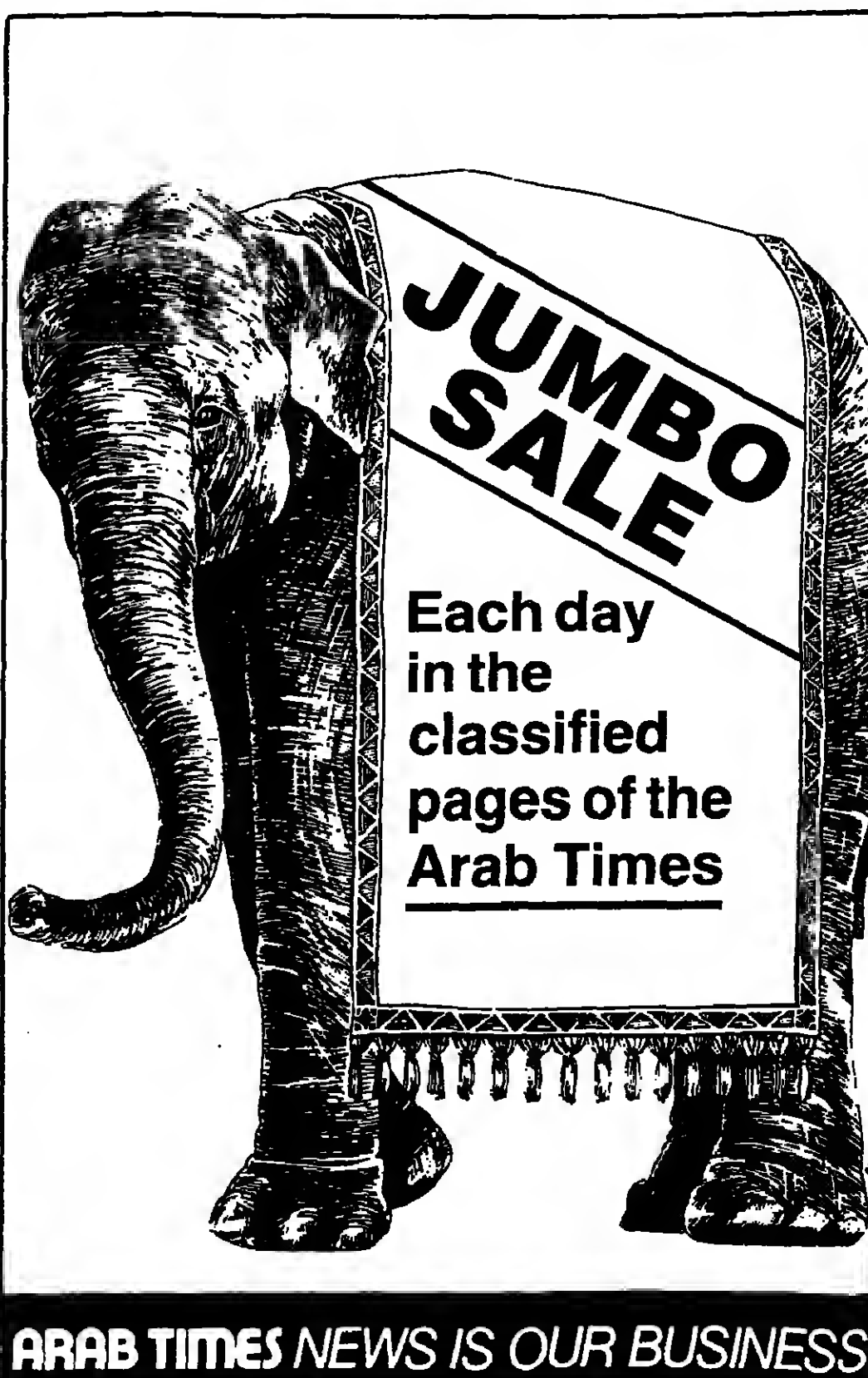
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Ballesteros heads star line-up in classic

DUBAI: Severiano Ballesteros will head the line-up in the Emirates Airline Desert Classic which brings the PGA European Tour back to the Gulf next month.

The Spanish superstar will be among 140 players taking part in the tournament, which is being sponsored by the international airline of the UAE and takes place at Dubai's Emirates Golf Club from February 22 to 25.

With a total of £250,000 in prize money at stake and a first prize of £41,660, the tournament will be the second of the year on the PGA European Tour.

"We are pleased that Ballesteros has decided to come to Dubai," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates, at a press conference yesterday. "He is the most popular golfer in the world today, and one of the finest players in the history of the game. His appearance in the Emirates Airline Desert Classic gives much extra prestige to the tournament."

Biggest

One day prior to the tournament Ballesteros and 24 other top professionals will join forces with teams of three amateurs in the traditional Pro-Am, which is being sponsored jointly by Emirates and Airbus Industries.

Ballesteros, winner of three PGA European Tour events last year, is the game's biggest personality, attracting the largest galleries wherever he plays. Since bursting onto the scene with two tournament wins in 1976 he has added 43 more victories in Europe, along with 14 others around the world.

Having topped the European Order of Merit five times he has earned almost £2 million in prize money in Europe alone. With additional winnings in the United States, Japan, Australia and a multitude of endorsements and other outside interests, he has become one of the wealthiest sportsmen in the world.

Last year he captured the Cepsa Madrid Open, Epson Grand Prix and Ebel European Masters-Swiss Open titles.

He also helped Europe retain the Ryder Cup, and the last three triumphant campaigns against the Americans have given him as much pleasure as any of his five greatest individual successes in the 1979, 1984 and 1988 British Open Championships, and in the 1980 and 1983 US Masters tournaments.



Ballesteros

Platt gets all-clear

LONDON, Jan 30. (Reuters): Aston Villa's David Platt, the English First Division's leading scorer, is expected to be out of action for about three weeks with an ankle injury.

Fears that the striker had broken a leg in Saturday's FA Cup thrashing of Port Vale were dispelled by X-rays yesterday and assistant manager John Ward said: "The feeling is of relief."

"The X-ray does not show a cracked bone, although there is still a lot of swelling around the ankle."

Villa are level on points with First Division leaders Liverpool and Platt has played his way into England's World Cup plans with 19 goals so far this season.

Spurs overcome Lakers

Bulls pull down Hawks

CHICAGO, Jan 30. (AP): The Chicago Bulls had a 20-point lead after one period, then cruised behind 20 points by Scottie Pippen and 16 by Michael Jordan to a 121-111 victory over the Atlanta Hawks last night.

The victory, in which John Paxson and Horace Grant also had 16 points for Chicago, was



Mavericks' guard Derrick Harper (12) and Net's Lester Conner battle for the loose ball. (Reuter wirephoto).

the fifth in seven games for the Bulls, 18-2 at home this season. It also snapped a three-game winning streak by Atlanta, which got 19 points from Cliff Levingston.

Chicago coach Phil Jackson used his bench for most of the fourth quarter. He put eight players in double figures, including rookie Stacey King, who had

a career-high 15 points.

The game was tied at 6 when Chicago went on a 22-1 tear in span of 6:25. Chicago's highest lead was 31-9, and the Bulls held a 35-15 edge after the first quarter, in which they sank 15 of 21 shots for 71 per cent. The Hawks converted just 5 of 22 in the period for 23 per cent.

Mavericks 108, Nets 88

Roy Tarpley, making his third appearance following a 33-game suspension, scored 23 points to lead Dallas its sixth straight victory, handing New Jersey its fifth consecutive defeat.

The victory also was the fifth straight at home for the Mavericks, who got 20 points from Derek Harper.

Tarpley was reinstated a week ago by the NBA's drug-counseling service. He had been suspended in November after being charged with driving while intoxicated and resisting arrest.

Sam Bowie had 13 points to lead the Nets, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. New Jersey is 4-18 on the road this season.

Timberwolves 108, Kings 81

Minnesota broke a nine-game losing streak with Randy Breuer scoring all of his 15 points in the second half as the expansion Timberwolves won for the first time since Jan 4.

Breuer, a 7-foot-3 center, got

hot in the first eight minutes of the second half, when the Timberwolves expanded their 49-47 halftime lead to 62-50 en route to only their third victory in 21 games. Tony Campbell led Minnesota with 25 points. Pooh Richardson had 20 points and 10 assists.

Sacramento, which had won three of its last four games, its best stretch this season, fell to 2-16 on the road. Wayne Tisdale led Sacramento with 26 points and Rodney McRay had 20. In the Wolves' previous outing against the Kings, on Jan 9, Minnesota managed just 70 points, a season low.

Spurs 86, Lakers 84

Willie Anderson blocked a go-ahead layup and made game-winning free throws, leading San Antonio to its first victory at the Forum in more than six years.

The loss broke a 12-game home winning streak by the Lakers, who played without flu-ridden Magic Johnson. It was the first victory for the Spurs at the forum since Jan 6, 1984, a span of 14 games.

With the score tied at 84, Anderson blocked an attempted layup by Larry Drew with 16 seconds remaining.

Results

Minnesota	109	Sacramento	91
Chicago	121	Atlanta	101
Dallas	108	New Jersey	88
San Antonio	86	L.A. Lakers	84

Argentina hit by problems

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 30. (Reuters): Argentina's hopes of retaining the World Cup could be hampered by preparation problems which include having a core of top players, Diego Maradona among them, at clubs halfway across the globe.

Although a group including Cameroon, the Soviet Union and Romania should not be too daunting, national coach Carlos Bilardo is worried that poor fitness levels and a lack of team experience may undermine his ambitions.

"We have two difficulties. One is the slow recovery of the injured players and the other is that we can never play together as a team as many members are in Europe," said Bilardo, who has declined to add the individual problems of his captain Maradona to his list of worries.

Maradona, Argentina's inspiration and match winner in Mexico four years ago when they lifted the World Cup for the second time, is just one of a number of leading Argentine players who are employed by European clubs.

Other Europe-based stars likely to play a major part in Bilardo's team include Jorge Burruchaga (Nantes, France), Gabriel Calderon (Paris Saint Germain), Oscar Ruggeri (Real Madrid) and Claudio Caniggia (Atalanta, Italy).

On a recent tour, with many key players missing, Argentina were beaten 2-0 by Monaco, drew 0-0 with Guatemala and lost 2-0 to Mexico in Los Angeles.

Bilardo was undaunted. "I am not interested in the results of these games. Things would be very different if all of my players were available," he said.

Much, however, will depend upon the physical and emotional condition of Maradona.

Having recovered from the traumatic series of events which led him into a prolonged dispute with his Italian club Napoli and which threatened his future in both Italian and international soccer, Maradona has begun training in earnest for what could be his last World Cup appearance.

After an unimpressive performance for Argentina in the South American championship won by Brazil last year, he requires a major effort and the recovery of his best form if his contribution to the team is to match that of Mexico in 1986.

"I do not think that Maradona will be out of shape because it would not suit him to fail in what he says

might be his last World Cup," said Bilardo, who has remained loyal to his captain.

Maradona, who started the Italian League season late following his now infamous, unauthorised extended holiday, has the advantage of being fresh. In addition to his late return to duty, holders Napoli were knocked out of the UEFA Cup at an early stage and the explosive forward therefore has reduced demands on his energy between now and the finals.

Another star of the 1986 team who is battling to regain his best form before the 24-team finals begin in June is Jorge Valdano. He recently returned to professional soccer after leaving Spain's Real Madrid two years ago after a bout of hepatitis.

Valdano, 34, was in good shape in the training sessions prior to Argentina's January tour and it was hoped he would be able to rediscover the skillful and influential midfield form which was an important part of the Mexico triumph.

His inclusion would be a tactical bonus, too, for Bilardo as Valdano has the versatility and intelligence to blend well between midfield and attack in support of Maradona.

Bilardo, who has carefully blended European-style steel with South American skills in his side, says he does not expect any revolutionary new tactics or systems to emerge from the finals in Italy.

He believes all the 24 nations, like Argentina, will play with three defenders, five midfielders and two forwards and that high-quality, imaginative and bold passing will be important.

"The passes will have to be dynamic, fast and with great precision. Our midfielders ended the season with an average of only one goal per year. In Rome they will have to attack to be worth their places," he said.

In Bilardo's view, Argentina have been very fortunate in avoiding a European team and drawing Cameroon as their opponents in the tournament-opening showpiece match in Milan on June 8.

"This favours us since we will not have the pressure that the fans could have put on us in Milan," he explained. "Argentina will then face the Soviet Union and Romania in Naples...and there I'm sure it will be like being the home team."

"Our group is not one of the most difficult. But neither is it the easiest."

Johnson training for comeback

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan 30 (AP): Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson says he is training hard for a comeback from drug-induced disgrace, and believes he will be able to regain the 100-metre world record from US star Carl Lewis.

During an appearance on West German television late Sunday, Johnson said he believed he would be able to run the 100 to 9.90 seconds.

"I'm training hard and I'm running the 60 (metre) in six seconds," Johnson said during a live show in Frankfurt.

Johnson said his doping case convinced him that athletes must be able to reach top performances without drugs.

"You have to believe in yourself, then you can reach the top without drugs," Johnson said.

Johnson was stripped of his gold medal at the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul after steroids, the illegal muscle-builders, were found in his urine. His world mark of 9.79 seconds in Seoul was taken off the record books.

Track and field's world body later stripped Johnson of all his records, giving Lewis the world 100 metre mark at 9.92, the time Lewis clocked in Seoul in finishing behind Johnson. Lewis was awarded the gold medal after Johnson's disqualification.

The Canadian sprinter was banned for two years and becomes eligible again in September.

During the brief interview on the ZDF television network, Johnson said he was looking forward to a head-to-head duel with Lewis after his suspension is lifted, but said no date for the showdown has been fixed.



Cable cars and classic automobiles carry 49ers during a Super Bowl victory parade in San Francisco yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

49ers amaze own coach

Broncos return home quietly

NEW ORLEANS, Jan 30. (Reuters): San Francisco 49ers coach George Seifert said yesterday that even he was awed by team's performance in the historic 55-10 Super Bowl blowout of the Denver Broncos.

"I have to say that I was surprised somewhat by the way the game did work out," Seifert told reporters at the traditional winning coach's news conference after Sunday's Super Bowl XXIV American football championship game.

"There were times I walked the sidelines and just shook my head in awe...the way that we were in synch, it just all came together."

Led by Joe Montana's record five touchdown passes backed up by a smothering defence, the 49ers made it look easy as they became the first team to repeat as Super Bowl champions for 10 years.

Seifert, nine years an assistant coach with the 49ers before taking over the top job this season, was not bothered that many people would give credit for San Francisco's success to Bill Walsh, who retired as coach after last year's victory.

"Obviously the mark that Bill's put on this club will last for a long time," Seifert said of his former boss, who coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl championships in the 1980s. "I'm satisfied to be a part of it."

"Their attitude as far as going back and repeating was something from within them and it's a matter now of keeping that spark going," he said of their chances for a third consecutive title.

There were no parades or receptions for the Denver Broncos yesterday. They didn't want any, either.

Hanging their heads and looking glum, the subdued Broncos got off an airplane in their hometown after losing to San Francisco.

The Broncos returned on a chartered flight from New Orleans.

Most players and coaches at first declined media requests for



Montana waves to the crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)



Seifert (left) holds up the Super Bowl trophy and waves as he rides with San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos (centre) and 49ers team owner, Eddie DeBartolo Jr. (Reuter wirephoto)

comments, but later spoke with reporters as they waited for their luggage.

Noticably quiet was quarterback John Elway, whose only brush with the crowd came when he returned to search for his luggage.

Coach Dan Reeves attributed the loss to the 49ers' effectiveness.

Wide receiver Vance Johnson echoed what seemed to be the sentiments of most of the team.

"We're just glad to be alive," Johnson said.

Hosts Italy face dual World Cup pressures

Vialli and Ancelotti still recovering

ROME, Jan 30. (Reuters): Italy will be under pressure from the past and the present when they kick-off their bid to win the World Cup soccer finals against Austria in Rome on June 9.

As hosts, Italy carry the hopes of a nation united by few things as much as by their love of soccer.

And, as three times former winners of the trophy, they bear the burden of history as they attempt to win the World Cup for a record fourth time.

Bookmakers, no doubt encouraged by the precedent of a home victory set when the finals last took place in Italy in 1934, have installed the host side as favourites to add to their triumphs of that year, 1938 and 1982.

The draw last December has put Italy in the weakest of the six first round groups for the 24-nation finals in June and July. Matched against Austria, Czechoslovakia and the United States, Italy should proceed comfortably to at least the quarter-finals.

But doubts have already been raised about the ability of a young squad hrimming with talent from the Game's richest league to cope with the stress of fulfilling every Italian's dreams.

"I think Italy normally would be one of the favourites," Pele of Brazil, the only other country to win the World Cup three times, said during the draw in Rome. "But you have to take account of the pressure of the crowds."

The strains of an exhausting season in Italy, where top clubs are playing twice a week to meet commitments before the finals, are also taking their toll.



Baresi (right): one of the best defenders



Vialli (right): still recovering from injury

Gianluca Vialli, the gifted Sampdoria striker charged with scoring Italy's World Cup goals, has broken a foot and is expected to be out of soccer until late February.

Midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, of European and world club champions AC Milan, has not yet returned to the national squad following a cartilage operation and Internazionale Milan defender Riccardo Ferri is recovering from shoulder surgery.

All three men are key components of Italy's expected World Cup squad and their absence, as well as the frenetic pace of Italian soccer, have come to trouble manager Azeglio Vicini in the run-up to the finals.

Vicini, in charge since Italy's

return from a second round exit at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, has only two more warm-up matches in which to prepare his side — against European champions the Netherlands on February 21 and Switzerland on March 31.

He plans to announce his final squad of 22 on April 30 and move to the Italian Soccer Federation training camp near Florence on May 5. The squad will switch in early June to a base in hills outside Rome, their first-round venue.

"We'll have 40 days between the end of the League and the start of the World Cup...that's when the real team will be born, when you'll see an aggressive, fast, brilliant Italy again," Vicini

said this month.

He was speaking in the wake of a string of disappointing friendlies against Brazil, England, Algeria and World Cup holders Argentina late last year that saw Italy score only once — a goal against the Algerians widely regarded as offside.

The record of a selection Vicini has honed from fresh young talent since Mexico is impressive — 21 victories in 34 matches, with only 15 goals conceded to 51 scored.

He insists staleness from too much soccer is behind the recent decline, a disappointment to Italians who saw virtually the same squad reach the semifinals of the 1988 European champion-

ships in West Germany with exciting soccer.

"Today the national team is 9/11ths the same as I played at the European championships. If you consider the probable return of Ancelotti then the side is almost identical," Vicini said.

His remarks suggest few experiments for the finals though critics say he must draft inspiration into midfield and goalscoring power, to support Vialli, into attack.

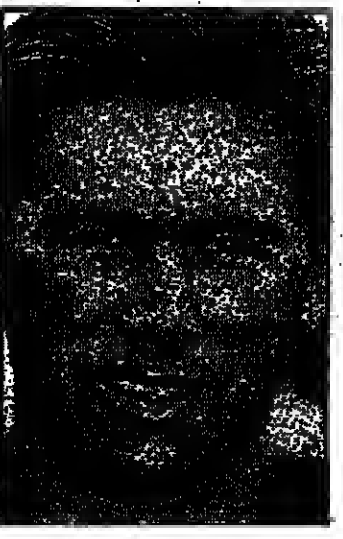
The defence is considered solid with Internazionale's Walter Zenga in goal and arguably the world's most talented defender in Franco Baresi, a player described by the manager of his club AC Milan as having the reliability of a Swiss watch, as libero.

The most likely addition is Roberto Baggio of Fiorentina, an attacking midfielder Italians fell in love with after two goals in a 4-0 rout of Bulgaria last September.

Salvatore Schillaci, signed by Juventus this season from the Second Division and scoring goals with relish, is also being touted as a potential World Cup revelation.

He played in an under-21 friendly against England on Vicini's recommendation last November and is being compared to Paolo Rossi by a star-struck Italian press.

Rossi, brought back from a two-year suspension for alleged involvement in a betting scandal, was the six-goal hero of Italy's last World Cup victory in Madrid in 1982.



Carlo Ancelotti



Azeglio Vicini

Karpov to face Deep Thought

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, Jan 30. (AP): Anatoly Karpov, ranked No 2 in the world in chess, plans to play on Friday against Deep Thought, a computer at Harvard University that has lately conquered opponents regularly.

Deep Thought was defeated 2-0 last October in New York by world chess champion Garry Kasparov.

"The computer is out for revenge now," Danny Edelman, president of the Harvard University chess club said yesterday.

The computer's programme has been improved since its defeat and has beaten international grandmasters David Levy, Maxim Dlugy and Tony Miles.

Karpov has never played against Deep Thought, Edelman said.

Hare breaks woman's leg

LONDON, Jan 30. (Reuters): A woman assistant at a greyhound stadium has had her leg broken by the mechanical hare while checking equipment during a meeting in Bristol, south-west England.

Marie Archer, 25, was taken to hospital on Saturday after she was hit from behind by the two-foot (60 cm) high hare as it returned to its starting position. Yesterday she was said to be "comfortable."

"Stadium racing manager Dennis Pope said: The hare must have come out of the mist and rain before she could see it."

Wakiihuri takes marathon gold Lewis makes Games history



Wakiihuri shows his jubilation at winning the marathon. (Reuters wirephoto)



Douglas Wakiihuri (centre) with Moneghetti (left) and Tanzania's Simon Naali, who came third. (Reuters wirephoto)

AUCKLAND, Jan 30 (Reuters). A record fifth swimming gold medal for Australian teenager Hayley Lewis restored the sparkle to a Commonwealth Games hit by a second doping shock today.

Lewis, 15 and unknown a year ago, became the most successful woman competitor in the 60-year history of the Games.

Her remarkable performance drew attention away from the pouring rain which washed out some outdoor competition and news that a second athlete, believed to be a Welsh weightlifter, had tested positive for illegal drugs.

Two other Australian teenagers, gold medalist Glen Housman and runner-up Kieren Perkins, joined one of swimming's greats, Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union, as the only men to swim 1,500 metres in under 15 minutes.

Housman, who was robbed of Salnikov's world record by a timing equipment fault last month, narrowly failed to enter the record books once again, finishing 0.49 seconds outside Salnikov's mark with a time of 14 minutes 55.25 seconds.

In the only athletics event added to the Games marathon title to his world and London crowns, accelerating away from Australia's Steve Moneghetti in the final kilometre to win in two hours 10 minutes 27 seconds.

The event, run in the morning before heavy rain fell on grey and soggy Auckland, was a repeat of the 1989 London race. Moneghetti, second then, admitted he saw little chance of ever catching the cosmopolitan Wakiihuri who lives in three countries and speaks four languages.

Between them Lewis, who added the 200 metres butterfly title to her portfolio, and Lisa Curry, who coached her fourth gold by winning the 50 metres freestyle, exceeded arch rival Canada's total haul in the pool, underlining Australia's superiority.

Another Australian woman, Deanna Norman, won five athletics golds at the 1938 Games but Lewis also picked up a bronze.

A day after Indian lifter Subratkumar Paul was sent home after failing an initial test for steroids, Welsh team leader Myrddin John was summoned to a meeting to discuss a second positive test.

Welsh deputy team manager Basil George said it was "highly possible" that a Welsh competitor was involved. Asked if the competitor was a weightlifter, George said: "It could well be."

Games organisers came under fire for opting for random testing for weightlifters against the advice of the International Weightlifting Federation which wanted all medal winners to be automatically tested for drugs.

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation issued a statement urging governments world-wide to band together to eliminate drugs from the sport.

"Without this commitment both small and large countries cannot implement their wish to ensure that maximum random drug testing is done during preparation as well as competition periods," the statement said.

A second drug test on Subratkumar Paul, has proved positive, Games sources said today.

The sources said the follow-up test had confirmed the presence

of anabolic steroids in Paul's urine sample.

Drugs checks for the Auckland Games are being carried out in Sydney because New Zealand does not have adequate testing facilities.

Under international anti-doping rules, team officials and athletes are entitled to be present when a follow-up test is conducted after a positive initial finding.

Indian team doctor Manmohan Singh was understood to have returned to Auckland today after travelling to Sydney to witness the second test on Paul's urine sample.

Paul, who was ordered home yesterday by Indian team manager Kanwaljit Singh Bains, won two silvers and a bronze medal in the lightweight (67.5 kg) division.

India's weightlifters enjoyed an unprecedented success in Auckland, winning a total of 27 medals, including 11 golds.

Medals table after the sixth day of Commonwealth Games competition on Tuesday (gold, silver, bronze):

Australia	39	41	39
Canada	27	24	21
England	24	22	25
India	11	10	8
Wales	10	4	5
New Zealand	8	6	10
Kenya	2	4	1
Nigeria	1	7	5
Scotland	1	3	4
Nauru	1	2	-
Bangladesh	1	-	1
Jersey	1	-	1
Jamaica	1	-	-
N Ireland	1	-	-
Zimbabwe	1	-	-
Hoog Kong	-	-	2
Bahamas	-	-	1
Tanzania	-	-	1



Lewis acknowledges the applause of the crowd. (Reuters wirephoto)

McLaren fail to get Formula 1 licence

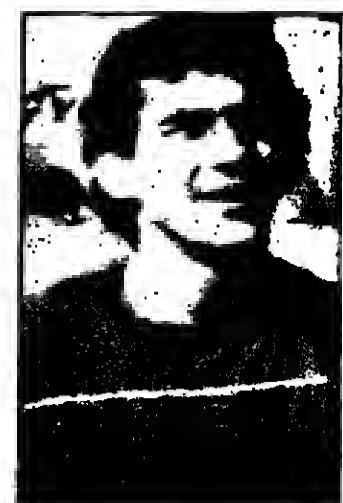
PARIS, Jan 30 (AP). Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Auto Sports Federation, said yesterday his organization had returned the McLaren team's application to participate in the 1990 Grand Prix auto racing season because of controversy over driver Ayrton Senna.

Balestre told a news conference three weeks ago that Senna, a Brazilian who won the 1988 world championship, would not be granted the "super licence" needed to compete on the Formula 1 circuit unless he withdraws allegations that last year's championship was manipulated in favour of Frenchman Alain Prost.

Prost won the 1989 championship in a down-to-the-wire, controversy-ridden competition with his McLaren-Honda teammate, Senna.

In a radio programme last night, Balestre said the International Auto Sports Federation had returned the McLaren-Honda team's application forms for its two cars and would refuse the team's participation in Formula 1 racing until the Senna case is resolved.

The British Formula One motor racing Grand Prix will take place at Silverstone for five



Ayrton Senna

Frazier's son charged

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 30 (AP). The 27-year-old son of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier was charged with knocking a 10-year-old boy off a bicycle and robbing him of \$3 and the bike, police said.

Heor Frazier was charged Sunday night with robbery, theft, receiving stolen property and simple assault. The former junior welterweight boxer was being held last night pending arraignment, according to police.

William Neri told police he was riding a bicycle in northeast Philadelphia on Sunday evening when a man knocked him down, took his money and rode off on his bike.

About 30 minutes later, a police officer spotted a man, later identified as Frazier, riding the stolen bicycle. The man fled, but police caught him about a block away.



Sumo wrestler

Grand Champion sumo wrestler Chiyonofuji stands proud as he is congratulated by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu for getting a sports Grand Prix award at the Premier's official residence in Tokyo yesterday (Reuters wirephoto)

Equalisers go down to Flyers

AFTER 12 consecutive defeats, Fintas Flyers at last turned out a 4-2 result in their favour, as Equalisers became the third Flyers victims in 42 league attempts. A well earned draw for Jabraya Grabbers at home to Zero-Up has also helped to make the scramble to end the Mouchel Wednesday Darts League wooden spoon almost as interesting as the top of the table battle. Joining No 3 Hoppers on 3 points, these bottom 3 teams now have almost identical game differences and with each one still having to play the other two, some momentous darts are in prospect over the next 5 weeks.

The top five men's teams are won again this week, but MEE's 4th defeat in 5 games, to Weerapetee, has killed off any lingering hopes they had. Chucklers found to their cost, as did Has Beans two weeks previously, that Blackouts are fast emerging as a force to be reckoned with, and another lost point could prove costly to their chances.

The Mouchel Wednesday Ladies Darts League is proving no less interesting, with even less separating their top 5 teams. Bulls Hitters and Zero Down both had to settle for a draw this week, allowing Lady Tossers to take a clear lead for the first time, on the back of 6 successive wins. Here again, the 3 most interested teams have still yet to play each other, and with Nibblers and Barbed Comments only 2 points behind and with an easier playing schedule, the margin between success and failure is likely to be very small indeed.

A crunch game in mid-week saw Northern Lights emulate the Flyers with a first win, a 3-1 result over Two P's, pulled them out of bottom spot and pushed their opponents into their place.

The main scrum highlights of the week revolved around Bulls Hitters players. John Watson completely demoralised Absolutely captain Ron Finch by opening up with a 180 score on his way to a 3-0 win. In the other, Hilary Milne's highest finish of 87 was surpassed after a tenure of 1 week, by a treble 17, double 19 completion of 89 for Barbed Comments' Eileen Watkinson, replacing the lead she had previously held for nearly three months. Nigel Nightingale and Martin Fessey hit first 140's of the season whilst Dawn O'Dowd and the newbies Eileen Ewings and Brenda the lead in the most number of Ladies High Scores Trophy.

The latest Mouchel Wednesday Darts League results are as follows, with ladies scores in brackets: Nobblers (31), MEE (11), Blackouts (14), Four Play (11), Dmar Soaters (12), No Hoppers (11), Grabbers (13), Absolutely (12), Pacifics (10), Fintas Flyers (10), Four Play (11), Dmar Soaters (12), Mugs Away (11), Weerapetee (10), Chucklers (10), Fintas Flyers (11), Hat Beans (13), Show of Tossers (14), Zero-Up (12), Bulls Hitters (12), Soweto Slingers (11), Equalisers (12), No Hoppers (12), Weerapetee (11).

Colts set to meet Lions

THE two Sri Lankan teams, Lanka Colts and Lanka Lions will be vying for a place in the final when they meet each other in the second semifinal of Bhutto Memorial Cricket Trophy on Friday.

The tournament is being sponsored by Pakistan Peoples Club and organised by Gulf Cricket League (G.C.L.) at the E.P.I. Grounds. The match will commence at 9.00 am. One of the umpires nominated for the match is S.M. Pillay. The teams will be selected from:

Lanka Colts: Hiran Fernando (captain), Ralph de Niese, Chris Amarasena, Koville, Oliver, Nalaka, Lal Pemasiri, Bernadean, Rohan Feris, Ossen, Solomon, Nalin, Senaka, Ramzan Sarif ud Din and Vimal.

Lanka Lions: Perusinging (captain), Chula, Namel, Donald, Nalin, Dhammika, Sujitha, Rohitha, Rani, Ray, Dissanayake and Samarathunga.

Iraq hold Norway 1-1 in friendly

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 30 (AP). The Iraqi national soccer team drew with the Norwegian Olympic soccer team here yesterday 1-1 in an exhibition game in preparation for Iraq's participation in a major Gulf tournament in Kuwait next month.

Norwegian striker Peter Hageo sent a powerful ball to the Iraqi net in the 23rd minute in a mediocre match in which the Norwegian team seemed to have the edge, although there were a number of storming strikes from Iraq's national team.

Iraq's veteran striker Hussein Said managed to score the team's only goal in the 32nd minute when he sent a scorching shot towards the Norwegian net.

The 10th Arab Gulf Soccer Championship is to be held in Kuwait between February 20 and March 9.

Seven Gulf countries are to participate in the tournament which was won by Iraq in 1988 in Saudi Arabia.

Nehemiah proves critics wrong

NEW YORK, Jan 30 (AP). When Renato Nehemiah, the world record-holder in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, left track in 1982 for professional football, critics said he wouldn't make it in the National Football League.

He spent four years with the San Francisco 49ers and was on the team which won the 1984-85 football championship—the Super Bowl—before returning to track in 1986. Critics said he would never return to the ranks of the top hurdlers.

Again, he showed them to be incorrect. Nehemiah was slowed by

injuries—a torn left Achilles' in 1986 and 1987, a sciatic problem in 1988, but by 1989 he was one of the world's top hurdlers.

His best time was 13.20 seconds, and he was ranked fourth in the world.

"I feel I'm still vintage," the 30-year-old Nehemiah said yesterday. "I'm one of the best hurdlers in the world. That's why I continue to run."

Nehemiah was ready to forget his comeback hopes in 1985, when the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field, kept rebuff-

ing his efforts to regain amateur status. But his manager, Ron Stanko, insisted he keep pursuing the opportunity.

Once he got back into track, Nehemiah felt "that I could be among the best again, as long as I was here."

He finally got his chance to prove it last year, with three clockings in 13.20s. It wasn't close to the world record of 12.93 he set in 1981, but not many others were running faster, and only Roger Kingdom, the two-time Olympic gold medalist, was going under 13.00.

In fact, Kingdom broke Nehemiah's world record, clocking 12.92 at Zurich, Switzerland, on Aug. 16. It was a race in which Nehemiah was entered, but he withdrew at the last minute.

Asked his reaction to losing the record, Nehemiah said, "If you had asked me two years ago, I would have been paranoid and frantic."

"But if you watched the way Roger was running, you knew he was going to break it," Nehemiah said. "I'm glad I was in the race. I had said all along that I didn't want to be in the race when the record was broken."

Mechelen want to play at Heysel

BRUSSELS, Jan 30 (Reuters). Belgian champions Mechelen have asked for their European Cup quarter-final, first leg soccer match against holders AC Milan to be switched to notorious Heysel stadium where 39 people died in a riot in 1985.

Mechelen's financial manager, Piet Deryckere, said yesterday the Belgian Interior Ministry and the city of Brussels, owners of the stadium, had assured the European Football Union (UEFA) that safety could be guaranteed for the March 7 tie.

The club wanted the match moved because its own tiny stadium had room for only 14,000 fans, he said.

UEFA imposed a 10-year ban on Cup finals at the Heysel after 39 fans, mostly Italians, were crushed to death just before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus. Other soccer matches have

been played at the stadium since then.

Mechelen can expect a maximum crowd of 36,500 under safety rules introduced after the tragedy in May 1985.

Deryckere said the city of Brussels had also agreed to fortify the stadium's fences so that rival fans were segregated.

The match is likely to attract a large number of Dutch fans as several Dutch internationals play for the two clubs — Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten for Milan and Graeme Rugey, Erwin Koeman, Wim Hofkens and John Bosman for Mechelen.

"It's better to allow the Dutch fans into the stadium and know where they are than to have them loose in the streets," said Deryckere, referring to the violent reputation of some Dutch supporters.

Milan managing without Gullit

INJURED Dutch international Ruud Gullit is fast becoming the forgotten man of Milan as the resurgent European Cup holders prepare to host Diego Maradona's Napoli in an Italian Cup semifinal first-leg tie today.

Billed as the match of the season to date, the tie is the first of three between the top two clubs, the others on February 11 in the League and February 14 for the second-leg.

Despite Gullit's absence — the dreadlocked star has not played since June due to repeated knee surgery — AC Milan are enjoying a wave of confidence with 21 points from their last 11 League matches after a poor start to the season.

"We are managing to win even without our most important player," said coach Arrigo Sacchi of the man whose absence has gone increasingly unnoticed as the team prospers.

"Once upon a time they used to say that Milan was totally dependent on Gullit. But we have won six consecutive matches and no-one talks about him anymore," he said.

"But I haven't forgotten him, he's still close to my heart. We're waiting for him and doing everything possible so that when he comes back he'll find Milan on top," Sacchi added.

Gullit has had three knee operations since June but hopes to be back for the European Cup semifinals in April, confident that Milan would beat Mechelen of Belgium in the quarter-finals.

Maradona himself is doubtful for this evening's tie after he cut his leg and needed two stitches when Napoli beat Fiorentina on Sunday — their first away win since September 10.

Despite his off-the-pitch tussles with the League leaders over the last month, the



Gullit (centre): hopes to play in April

Argentine World Cup captain will do his utmost to be fit for the journey to Milan's San Siro stadium.

"It's not a League match but that doesn't matter. We reckon we'll get through to the finals — but so do Milan," he said.

Asked whether he most feared Milan or defending League champions Internazionale in the title race, Maradona retorted: "I'm not afraid of anyone, absolutely no-one."

Juventus meet Roma in the other Italian Cup semifinal.

In Spain, Real Madrid travel to fourth-placed Valencia today hoping to add to their amazing goal tally.

The club need to score 33 goals in their remaining 17 games to break the Spanish record of 96 held by Barcelona. With 64 goals from their first 21 games, seven of them against Castellon last weekend alone, Real stand in a reasonable chance.

Rafael Martin Vasquez, two-goal hero of the Castellon match, continues to make headlines.

He called his second goal "the goal of a lifetime" and told the sports Daily Marca that "it was my best goal as a professional... since I was a child, I thought this moment would come, but I thought it would come much earlier."

He said he had not decided his future for the next season but would have renewed his contract with Real if a fee had been agreed. "Now I have decided to leave it for the end of the season and that's what I'm going to do," he said.

In the Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven have said they are not prepared to release Danish international defender Ivan Nielsen before his contract expires in June.

Nielsen, 33, said he had played his last game for the club after being relegated to the substitutes bench for last Saturday's game with Willem II. "We've decided we'll keep him to his contract," said PSV general manager Kees Ploegma.

Ploegma also said he knew of no inquiries from Manchester United about Willem Kieft the Dutch international striker who recently made a transfer request which he has since withdrawn.

LOCAL CRICKET

Unity score easy win over Evershine

UNITY CRICKETERS thrashed Evershine by five wickets in a Gulf Bank Thursday League Trophy match at the Ahmadi ground.

Unity, winning the toss, put Evershine into bat. Evershine quickly got into the act, blasting 35 runs of the first 7 overs. Runs came and wickets fell, as they usually do in the Thursday games, as the batsmen threw their bat at everything.

In the process Inam and Razaq departed soon, which brought Zulqurnain to solo opener Shehad. From 55 for two, these two took the score to 176 without being separated.

Quick running between the wickets and at times aggression was the result of a comfortable total of 176 for 2 at the end of 22nd over. Shehad scored 72 n.o. (4 fours) and Zulqurnain 62 n.o. (4 fours) and 2 sixes. Unity fielding was deplorable with a total of 7 catches being floored.

Unity opened through regular Abuzabar and makeshift Bitru Singh. Abuzabar, always the flamboyant one, earned himself a reputation, by blasting out one of the best bowlers in Kuwait, Dawood Baig, for 20 runs in his very first over with utmost ease.

Bitru, at the other end, not to be outdone, lofted Rifat for a parallel bowlers back six. Sikaner also chipped in with a useful 25 runs. Just when Abuzabar seemed to be settling down for a big score, he holed out a return catch to Razaq. His blistering innings of 42 contained 5 fours and 2 sixes.

Babar, at the other end, played a sedate but a sensible innings of 42 n.o., along with Sarfaraz who scored a quick 20 with 2 sixes, enabling Unity to surpass the target in the 20 overs.

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Teenage batsman in final Test against Pakistan

SYDNEY, Jan 30, (Reuters): Teenage batting prodigy Darren Lehmann has forced his way into the Australian team for the third and final cricket Test against Pakistan starting on Saturday in Sydney.

Selectors announced the surprise move today. The 19-year-old South Australian is one of the youngest players ever selected for a full Test team.

"It's fantastic, I can't believe it," said Lehmann who has notched up four centuries for his state side this summer and currently has an average of over 60 for the season.

Three other changes were forced on the selectors by injuries to batsmen David Boon, Geoff Marsh and bowler Greg

Campbell who were replaced by the Western Australian trio of Tom Moody, Mike Veletta and Terry Alderman.

Boon had minor knee surgery last week, opener Marsh is recovering from a broken thumb and Campbell has not overcome a strained thigh muscle he suffered in a Sheffield Shield match last weekend.

Australia are one up in the three match series after their narrow victory in the first Test. The second Test was drawn.

Team: Allan Border (captain), Terry Alderman, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Dean Jones, Darren Lehmann, Tom Moody, Carl Rackemann, Mark Taylor, Peter Taylor, Mike Veletta, Stephen Waugh.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ida tourney

THE draw of the Seventh Ida Memorial Football Tournament will be held at Caravan Restaurant on Feb 9 at 10.30 am. The tournament will commence on Feb 16. Two representatives of all KIFF affiliated clubs are invited to attend the draw. Entries can be submitted to any G.C.A. representative or Celestino Vaz on phone number 4818259/4831064 or Edwin Pereira 2457230/31.

Mader triumphs

LES MENUIRES, France, Jan 30, (AP): Austrian Gunther Mader won the men's World Cup Super Giant Slalom today, covering the 530-metre course in 1:14.56. He defeated two Norwegians by 45-100ths of a second. Ole-Christian Furuseth was second in 1:15.24 and Atle Skjardal was third in 1:15.26.

Chitilda wins

BANGKOK, Jan 30, (Reuters): Thailand's Sot Chitilda made light of a cut near his left eye to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title today. Sot beat Ric Sidorov of the Philippines on points in a scrappy, one-sided bout.

W. Indies tourney

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Leeward Islands won the West Indies Cricket Championship for the first time yesterday with an emphatic victory over Windward Islands by an innings and 15 runs in St Johns.

S. Korean team

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 30, (AP): South Korea's national soccer team will leave tomorrow for three weeks of overseas training in Europe, the Middle East and Africa in preparation for the 1990 Rome World Cup championship.

Youth Games

BRUSSELS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Brussels will stage next year's inaugural Olympic Youth Games for 14 to 16-year-old athletes from all European countries, a Belgian Olympic Committee spokesman said today.

Russian team

BRUSSELS, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Soviet Republic of Russia will send its own team to an international indoor athletics meeting in Belgium on Sunday. Wilfried Meert, Belgian Athletics Federation secretary general, said yesterday he had been told by Russian athletics officials that the republic had never before sent a team to an athletics event outside the Soviet Union.

Safety row

PARIS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Organisers of the world famous Le Mans 24-hour sports car race today backed down in a row with the sport's governing body over safety measures and pledged the race would go ahead in June as scheduled.

Olympic bid

MONTREAL, Jan 30, (Kuna): Toronto, Canada's largest and most prosperous city is officially applying tomorrow to become the host of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. But the city's application has been cushioned in a controversy as to whether it should be spending money on sports when so many of its people need food and proper housing.

Brothers sail past Meridien

BROTHERS Sporting Cricket Club thrashed Meridien by 50 runs in a GCL Friday League match at the EPI ground on Friday.

Battling first, Brothers were all out for 98. Hiron was the top scorer with 27 while Sadeq hit 16, Kamal 11, Asghar 11 and skipper Masood also 11.

Meridien needed to score only 3.26 runs per over but they ran into very accurate bowling from the Brothers' pacemen and the whole side was out for only 48 in 19 overs.

Only Chaudhry reached the double figures with 16.

For Brothers, the main wicket-takers were Kanti Patel with five for 11, Solman four for 11 and Mossadek one wicket.

India escape defeat

Hirwani survives last ball appeal

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 30, (Reuters): Narendra Hirwani, India's number 11 batsman, survived an lbw appeal off the last ball of the game, bowled by Russell Mawhinney, as the four-day cricket match against Otago ended in a draw today.

India, set a 261-run target in 56 overs, finished on 256 for nine after earlier looking set for a comfortable victory.

Both sides contributed hugely to a tense finale after the loss of virtually the entire third day's play through bad weather.

Scoreboard

OTAGO first innings 426 for 5 wickets declared (K. Rutherford 228 not out, R. Mawhinney 88, N. Hirwani four for 97).

INDIA first innings 277 for 4, declared overnight (W. Raman 123, G. Singh 115 O, Hunter two for 86).

OTAGO second innings P. Dobbs c Raman b Venkataraman... 38



Vijay Chandrasekhar



Ajay Sharma

B. Harris c Azharuddin b Wassen... 3
K. Burns lbw b Wassen... 0
K. Rutherford c Chandrasekhar b Wassen... 0

B. Blair c sub (Razdan) b Raju... 47
R.W. Mawhinney not out... 5
P. Hills c Raman b Venkataramana... 7
Extras (b-6 lb-1 nb-2)... 11

Total (for six wickets declared) ... 111
Fall of wickets: 1-9 2-9 3-10 4-84 5-100 6-111

Bowling: Wassen 11-1-25-3 (2nb), Kapil Dev 7-4-6-0, Tendulkar 4-2-10-0, Venkataramana, 6-5-2-29-2, Raju 8-2-25-1, Raman 1-0-7-0.

INDIA second innings W. Raman lbw Hunter... 22
V. Chandrasekhar c Dobbs b Johnson... 71
S. Tendulkar b Johnson... 30
A. Sharma c Dobbs b Hills... 70
Kapil Dev c Hunter b Mawhinney... 21
M. Azharuddin c Dobbs b Mawhinney... 2

G. Singh run out... 10
Venkataramana c Dobbs b Hills... 7
Ajay Sharma not out... 11
Venkataramana b Mawhinney... 3
Narendra Hirwani not out... 2
Extras (b-1 nb-5)... 256

Total (for nine wickets) ... 256
Fall of wickets: 1-43 2-110 3-141 4-196 5-199 6-217 7-236 8-240 9-253.

Bowling: Hills 9-2-27-2, Johnson 16-0-77-2 (1nb), Hunter 10-1-63-1 (3nb), Lindsay 4-0-19-0 Mawhinney 17-2-69-3 (2nb).

Scores of tour protesters hurt

Police fire tear-gas

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Jan 30, (Reuters): Scores of people were injured when South African police fired tear-gas into a church hall yesterday to disperse a protest rally against a rebel English cricket tour.

Anti-tour committee spokesman Paul Ntuli said the victims were caught in a stampede as hundreds of people tried to flee.

He said about 80 demonstrators were arrested in the fracas in the black township of Mangaung near the Orange Free State town of Bloemfontein where the English players began a three-day match against a South African University XI.

Ntuli said police had told the crowd that the church hall gathering was illegal and protests against the tour would not be tolerated.

A police spokesman confirmed there had been an incident but declined to give details.

Earlier yesterday about 30 black staff staged a half-hour protest at the Bloemfontein hotel where the cricketers led by former England captain Mike Gatting were staying.

They called for the tour to be cancelled and said they would refuse to serve the cricketers. White staff were called in to look after them.

Yesterday's was the latest in a series of violent clashes between demonstrators and police which have soured the seven-week tour.

and cast a pall over the reformist image of South African President F.W. de Klerk.

Ntuli blamed South African Cricket Union manager Ali Bacher, organiser of the tour which defies an international sports boycott against the apartheid regime.

"He has a duty to answer to the people of South Africa and the international community," said Ntuli.

Anti-tour feeling became inflamed before the cricketers landed in South Africa on January 19, when protesters clashed with police at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport.

Since then the team has become embroiled in a series of rows involving media coverage, following a comment by Gatting about black demonstrators at the rebels' opening match in the diamond mining town of Kimberley.

Bacher had tried to defuse anti-tour feeling by obtaining permission for the demonstration but the protests still led to violent clashes with police.

Gatting was said to be furious at interpretations put on his comment that as far as he was concerned the demonstrators were simply singing and dancing.

"Some of the interpretations placed on his remarks in British newspapers today are nothing less than a scandalous abuse of

British fairness, journalistic privilege and freedom of speech," tour manager David Graveney said in a statement.

He pointed out that Gatting had on several occasions endorsed the right to peaceful protest and said that in future he and the squad would refuse to answer questions not related directly to cricket.

Bacher won the right today for a second black demonstration against the rebel tour.

Bacher said he had obtained permission from the Bloemfontein chief magistrate for a peaceful demonstration this afternoon outside the ground where the England rebels are playing a three-day match against a University XI.

Hours earlier baton-wielding police broke up a crowd of about 200 blacks who attempted to demonstrate outside the ground.

Police were out in large numbers in the nearby black township of Mangaung turning back carloads of blacks driving to Bloemfontein at road blocks.

"Mr Paul Ntuli of the National Sports Congress (NSC) rang me today requesting me to seek permission for a peaceful demonstration," Bacher said.

"I gave assurances that we accept the right of people to demonstrate peacefully and the chief magistrate was very understanding," Bacher said.

Unity move into semifinals

UNITY reached the semifinals of the Al Mulla Mitsubishi Trophy hockey tournament with a 1-0 victory over Flying Arrows at the Ahmadi grounds on Friday.

Unity's goal, which came in the 24th second of the game, was the fastest ever in the 40-year sport in Kuwait. Amjad, after receiving a pass from Afra, passed to Arif Jr who made no mistake in scoring the goal.

Despite Afra's domination of the midfield, Unity could not improve on the score but with this victory finished on top of their group with five points from three matches to take a place in the last four. Hilal, who finished with four points, also reached the semifinals.

Kuwait Independents also scored a solitary

goal victory over Starworld in their group match to move into contention for a place in the semifinals.

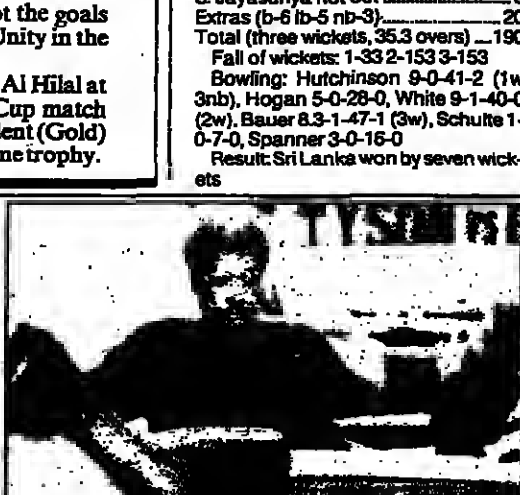
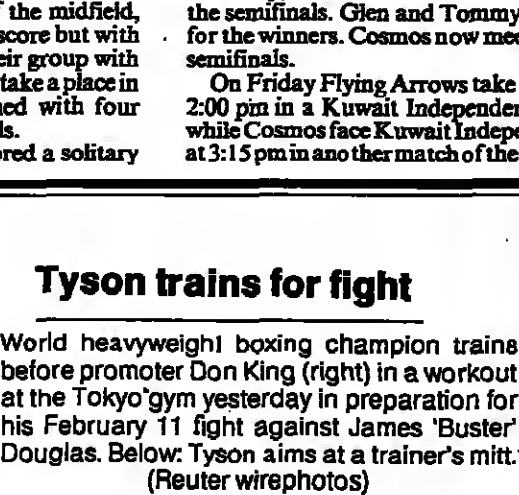
Starworld dominated the first half but failed to score. Luck was also not on their side as they hit the goalposts three times. Afzal scored the only goal in the second half of the game.

In a Champions Trophy match played on the same day, Cosmos beat Pak XI 2-0 to move into the semifinals. Glen and Tommy got the goals for the winners. Cosmos now meet Unity in the semifinals.

On Friday Flying Arrows take on Al Hilal at 2:00 pm in a Kuwait Independent Cup match while Cosmos face Kuwait Independent (Gold) at 3:15 pm in another match of the same trophy.

Tyson trains for fight

World heavyweight boxing champion trains before promoter Don King (right) in a workout at the Tokyo gym yesterday in preparation for his February 11 fight against James 'Buster' Douglas. Below: Tyson aims at a trainer's mitt. (Reuters wirephotos)



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TYSON IS B

World heavyweight boxing champion trains before promoter Don King (right) in a workout at the Tokyo gym yesterday in preparation for his February 11 fight against James 'Buster' Douglas. Below: Tyson aims at a trainer's mitt. (Reuters wirephotos)

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